

# China

T O U R I S M

MAY 1994

166

## ZHEJANG'S ANCIENT TOWNS AND WATERSIDE VILLAGES

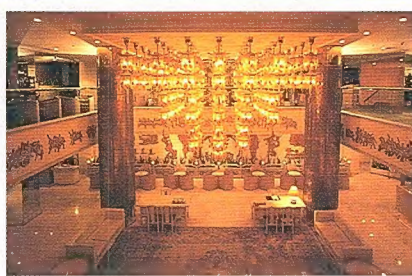
- A Furtive Glimpse at a Swan's Paradise in Bayanbulak
- The Half-Hidden Beauty of Taimu Mountain
- An Historical Tour of Humen





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—EDITORIAL—

# The Idyllic Charm of Zhejiang

Whenever Chinese people hear the term “Jiangnan” (generally used to refer to Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces), an image invariably springs to mind of winding streams, ancient bridges and quaint little towns. Despite the rapid pace of development and modernization all over China, this idyllic image is still very much alive in these two provinces.

In this issue of *China Tourism* we are focusing on Zhejiang, which has as its capital the beautiful city of Hangzhou. And although that city and the other major cities of Ningbo, Shaoxing and Wenzhou have much to offer the visitor, there is already plentiful information on these places in standard guidebooks. What we have attempted to do in this issue is to take you a bit farther afield to some of the smaller towns that typify Zhejiang, its people and their way of life.

Our first and main article is on Wuzhen, the hometown of the celebrated writer Mao Dun. Located in the north of the province, Wuzhen is a waterside town with a large number of teahouses and an undeniable charm. Next we go to Xia'ang, a town whose main business is the raising of silkworms. We give you a first-hand account of the entire process of the making of silk, a skill that has been handed down for countless generations in this region. We also take a look at a unique festival dedicated to silkworms in the town of Hanshan near Huzhou. The Silkworm Festival occurs during the Qingming holiday every spring and involves the worship of Mother Silkworm, a practice said to ensure a good harvest for the coming year.

Outside of Zhejiang, we have a number of interesting articles on a variety of subjects. We take you to a swan reserve in Xinjiang, to a fantastic mountain in northern Fujian, and on an historical tour of the town of Humen, where the event that sparked the Opium War took place. Other pieces include a look at a long-lost language from northern China, an interview with the eminent man of letters Wang Meng, and a visit to a very progressive primary school in Sichuan.



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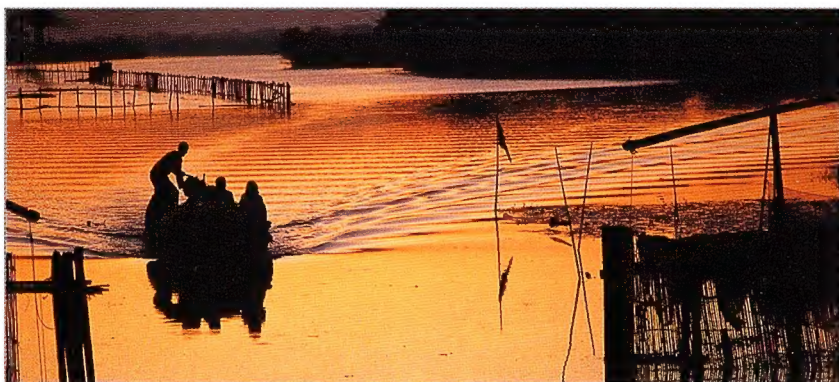
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**Front Cover:** For residents of Zhejiang's waterside villages, boats are used even for wedding processions (by *Chen Xiao*)

## ZHEJIANG'S ANCIENT TOWNS AND WATERSIDE



### Sipping Tea in the Sleepy Town of Wuzhen 8

Photos & Article by Xie Guanghui

Located 70 kilometres north of Zhejiang's capital city of Hangzhou, Wuzhen exemplifies the peaceful waterside town common to this area. It is a place where people travel mainly by boat and spend long hours chatting in teahouses, a place where the raucous sounds of city life are seldom heard and time seems to drift along as slowly as the water outside one's door.



### The Famed Wood Carvers of Dongyang 16

Photos by Xie Guanghui  
Article by Gao Ye

Dongyang is known as a "home of all trades" for the many crafts produced there, foremost of which is its exquisite wood carvings. Examples of this unique art grace gardens, temples, hotels, restaurants and ancient buildings all over China.

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### A Furtive Glimpse at a Swan's Paradise in Bayanbulak 42

Article by Song Shijing & Chan Yat Nin

Situated in the western part of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region is China's second largest grassland, a remote swampy plain that is an ideal home for swans and other wildlife. The herdsmen that live in this area never hurt the swans, but let them live in peace in their pristine natural environment.





## Making Silk in Xia'ang

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Photos & Article by Xie Guanghui

Some of the finest silk in all of China is made in northern Zhejiang Province. In this article our reporter pays a visit to the silk-producing town of Xia'ang and takes us through each step of the entire, fascinating process of traditional silk making, a skill that has been handed down from generation to generation for countless centuries.



## Hanshan's Silkworm Festival

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Photos & Article by Xie Guanghui

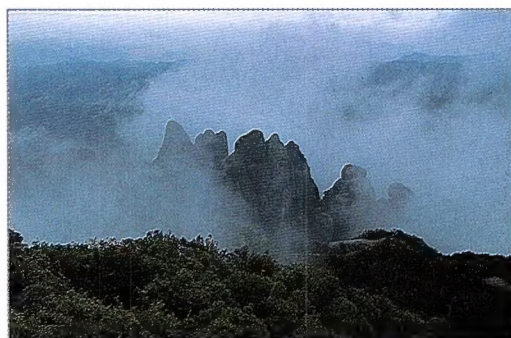
During the Qingming Festival every spring, the Hanshan people hold a festival dedicated to the worship of Mother Silkworm, a goddess said to protect and aid silkworm raisers. In an area where people depend on silkworms for their livelihood, many customs and stories have naturally sprung up surrounding this tiny creature.

## The Half-Hidden Beauty of Taimu Mountain

62

Article by Xie Guanghui

Taimu (Grandmother) Mountain in northern Fujian Province got its name from a tale about an old woman who lived there long ago, became an immortal and flew up to Heaven from one of its temples. Today the misty heights of Taimu are still home to many Buddhist temples and nunneries, as well as pagodas, caves and some truly fantastic scenery.



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# Sipping Tea in the Sleepy Town of Wuzhen

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY XIE GUANGHUI



*In Wuzhen, which is nestled alongside the Grand Canal, boats are a common means of transportation.*







Rheumatism and arthritis are widespread in this waterside village, which the local people treat using the cupping therapy that is part of the practice of acupuncture (1). ■ The back half of the houses in Wuzhen's waterfront area are propped up along the river with stilts, making it convenient to fetch water for daily use (2). This old lady still has a portrait of her father-in-law, who lived during the Qing Dynasty (3).





One winter's day last year I got on a bus in Zhejiang's capital city of Hangzhou and, after a two-hour, 70-kilometre ride northward, arrived at Wuzhen. This sleepy little village is the hometown of the late Mao Dun, a celebrated modern Chinese novelist known for such masterpieces as *Midnight* and *Spring Silkworms*.

Wuzhen is quite small, but it has all the features of a typical southern Chinese town. All activity seems to gravitate towards the centre of the town, ostentatiously called "Central Bazaar", where the four riverside streets converge from all four directions. Mao Dun's former residence is situated on Guanqian Street in the Central Bazaar. Although he had lived away from his hometown for the better part of his life, many of his stories were set against the background of Wuzhen, with its distinctive landscape and customs.

A horizontal signboard inscribed with the words "Aspirant's Studio" hangs above the entrance to the Mao Dun Memorial Hall. Photos, manuscripts, books and objects of daily use are kept in the display rooms to depict the life of this great man of letters. In the family's living quarter in the western part of the compound, the study, parlour, kitchen and the bedroom shared by his grandparents are all kept the way they were during his boyhood. In the family garden there are geraniums, palm trees, Chinese ilex, oriental arborvitae and fruit-bearing vines.

According to neighbours, Mao Dun built the house with money he earned from his book *Midnight*. An imitation Japanese-style piece of architecture, it was designed by the novelist himself. After his death, the government refurbished the house in 1988 and opened it to the public in 1991.

## A Ming-Dynasty Archway and a Fishing Village

The town of Wuzhen is divided in two by a river with flag-stone embankments. With the advent of a well-developed highway network, the river is no longer the town's only causeway as it once was, but traffic on the water still remains heavy. Every day two Suzhou-Hangzhou passenger boats sail by the town.

In Shijinh Street on the western bank of the river I came upon a Ming-dynasty stone archway. It is one of the few historical landmarks left in Wuzhen, but even its existence was threatened during the construction of a water conservancy project in the early 1970s. Had it not been for its colossal size, it would have been dismantled to fill a river dam nearby.

At the southern end of the town there is a small fishing village. The fishermen go out to fish in the wee hours, and when they return in mid-afternoon each boat brings back a catch ranging from 10-50 kilos. The villagers are doing fairly well financially, thanks to the high price of fish. Some young villagers, however, have left fishing to become wage earners in town factories, going to and from work by bicycle and living like the local townspeople. This change of career has somewhat reduced their income, but it has put an end to the rigorous life of a fisherman.

When the sun set just after five in the afternoon, all the shops closed and the entire town took on a deserted look. Even Wuzhen's only nightspot, a karaoke club housed in an ancient theatre which used to be part of a Taoist temple, is rarely visited. The scene called to mind the two lines which are often used in Chinese to depict country life: "Out to work when the sun rises, home to rest when the sun sets."

Drifting along a dimly lit, cheerless lane I plucked up my courage and knocked at one of the doors. The door opened to reveal an elderly couple working on silk floss and a young girl

doing homework at a desk set against the window. The family was not in the least surprised by my sudden visit. "Art students from the provincial capital come here so often to paint," the old man told me. "Sometimes there are dozens of them in the town. I often see them sitting on a stool by a windowsill and doing sketches for half a day." Once, a Beijing film crew



This archway is the only stone structure from the Ming Dynasty left in Wuzhen.



Mao Dun's former residence on Guanqian Street

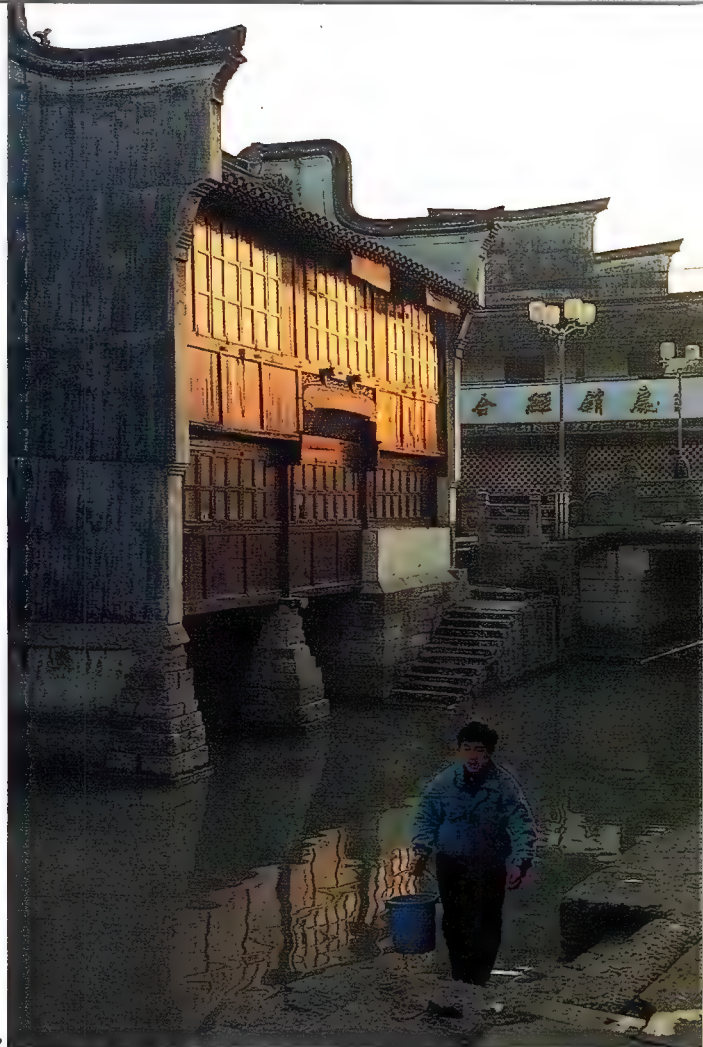


Every year on the birthday of Ksitigarba, one of the major bodhisattvas of Buddhism, Wuzhen residents light incense outside their homes (1, by Xu Jianrong). Wuzhen has all the charm of a typical southern Chinese waterfront town (2) Taking a boat ride at sunset (3)

1



2



3





visited the town and propped up their cameras on the rooftops of houses in order to shoot a street scene. Entering the family's inner room, I saw that the wooden floor was poised right above the river. Looking out the window, I could see the lights from homes on the opposite side of the river shimmering on the water. This quiet riverside town certainly has a special atmosphere.

**Teahouses Double as Restaurants**

Of the town's many teahouses, only two were open the first night I was there. One was at one end of Beihua Bridge and faced the Grand Canal. The patrons were mostly porters working on boats who came for a tea break during their time off.

The other teahouse I visited was on Changfeng Road, a mom-and-pop affair which served as a restaurant as well. With poised dexterity the woman served her patrons, most of whom were local townspeople. The teahouse was doing good business. In lieu of a menu, diners made their choice by simply pointing at plates loaded with raw ingredients and laid out on a table by the stove. I picked a hot pot of beancurd stewed with a fish head and Chinese cabbage, and a dish of sprouting broadbeans fried with pickled vegetables, which I ate over half a pint of the famous Shaoxing rice wine. As I was enjoying my meal, an old man turned up and took the seat beside me. He said he was 64 years old and worked at the bicycle parking lot at the Maiyuqiao Grocery Market. Every evening he came by for a cup of tea before leaving for his next shift at 8:30 p.m. as a watchman at a warehouse.

More guests arrived and in no time our table was surrounded with people. This gave me a good chance to learn the local way of drinking tea.

**The Tea-Making Ritual**

Drinking tea in Wuzhen is an art in itself, and it proceeds according to an elaborate ritual. When the drinker sits down he is first given a teapot filled with freshly made tea. A teacup filled with boiled water is placed on the mouth of the pot, indicating that the cup has been sterilized and cleansed. When one wants a refill, one need only remove the lid of the teapot and place it on the handle of the pot. The tea master will catch sight of this and hurry over to answer the call.

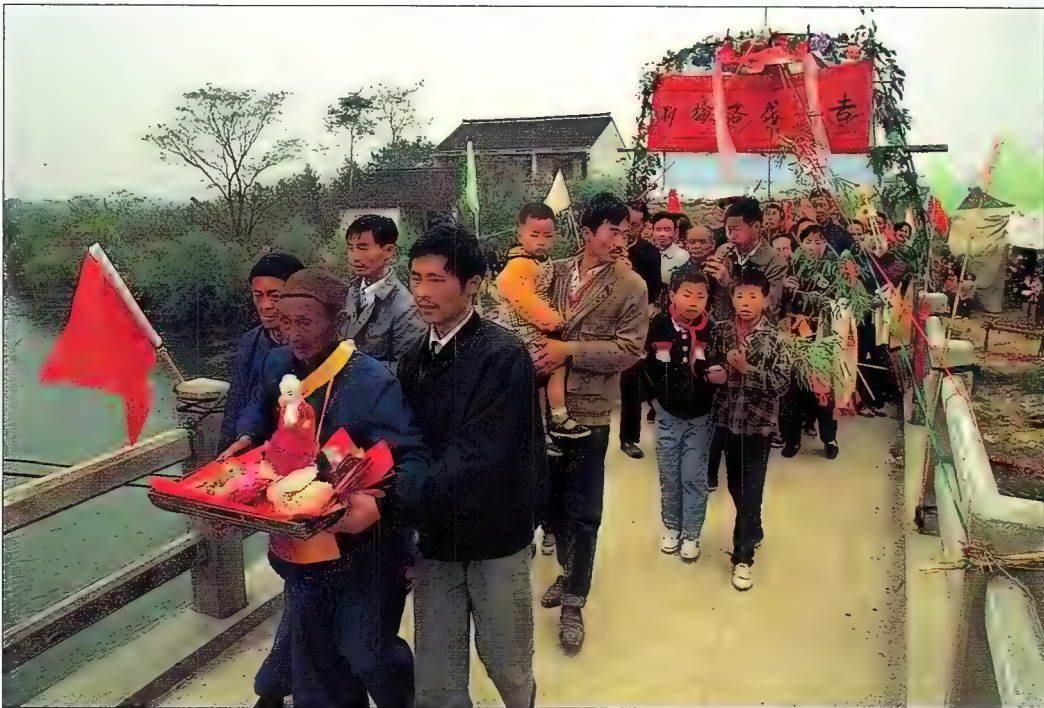
A teahouse's business hinges on the tea master's skill, which is judged by the way he or she pours the boiled water into the teapot. The correct way to do this is to raise the kettle high up in the air and bring it up and down three times. Thus the jet of water makes a high arc before landing in the pot, and this impact serves to give the tea leaves in the pot a good stir as they mix with the water. Tea

prepared in this way is regarded as a most delectable brew.

If the customer feels like leaving the table temporarily, he needn't say anything. By placing the lid of his teapot upside down on the pot, he is indicating that he is not yet through with his tea. If he returns the pot and cup to the form in which tea was first served, this means the customer has finished, and the set is immediately withdrawn to make room for newcomers.

Teahouse patrons are mostly men of a san-

guine disposition who prefer the company of friends to staying at home. At my table I met a local farmer whose wife had returned to her home in Shanghai with their two daughters. He had gone with her for a while but, bothered by the air pollution and cramped housing there, soon returned to his 180-square-metre house in the town. He made a living by tending his small piece of farmland and earned extra money during slack seasons by helping others with ploughing and house building. It was 9:00 p.m. when



Wuzhen is studded with bridges. Whenever a new bridge is built, all the townspeople make it a point to take a walk across it.



These stone steps near the Twin Bridges lead to the edge of the water, where townspeople go to wash their rice and vegetables.



The local people call teahouses "news agencies" because they are centres of information (1). Western Riverside Street boasts more teahouses than anywhere else in town. Many of the patrons come here to sell vegetables in between sips of tea (2). Tea kettles are kept warm by stacking them atop a stove (3).



1



2

3





the teahouse finally closed for the day. I found the prices here incredibly low: 50 cents for tea and 10 yuan for my dishes and wine.

Western Riverside Street claims the largest number of teahouses in the town, with most of them located near the Twin Bridges at the end of the street. The western side of the Twin Bridges borders on Wuxing County in Zhejiang Province, and to its north is Wujiang County in Jiangsu Province. Situated at a place where three counties and two provinces meet, Western Riverside Street is always bustling with activity. On a 40-metre stretch of street I counted ten teahouses.

Teahouse operators are early risers. Two hours before dawn breaks they are already up to light the stoves and boil the water. Before long the big pot, nursed by flames from the stove, starts to boil. Then the tea master starts the tea-making process, the boiled water pouring out of his kettle in glistening arcs as he fills one teapot after another. Soon the air is thick with the aroma of tea.

### Selling Vegetables in Between Sips of Tea

I discovered that most patrons have fixed seats at their chosen teahouse. Chen Xinchang, a 72-year-old customer of the same teahouse for more than 50 years, always sits on the right side of the door. With a little money stacked on the table, he puts down his cup from time to time to sell vegetables which are in a large basket by his feet. When he found me sitting at the same table, he asked, "You from the city? Haven't you eaten breakfast yet?" He then recommended that I try the baked cakes sold in a shop at the western end of the bridge. "The cakes there are as large as the palm of your hand and are served sandwiched with green scallions," he said. I went there and bought two cakes, which were just as tasty as he had promised.

By 9:00 that morning, the centre of activity in Wuzhen had switched from the teahouses to the streets. Chen had sold all his vegetables and earned enough money for his day's meals, tea and tobacco. Residing in a village nearby, he made a living exclusively by growing vegetables on his half-mu of tilled land. Every day he gets up at five, picks up a basket of vegetables and hauls it to Western Riverside Street. In the afternoon he tends his garden, sowing, watering, applying manure and so on. His life moves along as uneventfully as the narrow stream which flows in silence past his door.

It was noon by the time I returned to the Central Bazaar. There, the Fangluge Teahouse by Yingjia Bridge was still doing a roaring business. This is Wuzhen's oldest teahouse, dating back to the Tang Dynasty (618-907). Legend has it that the owner, surnamed Lu, was collecting tea one day in the mountains when he saved the life of Lu Yu, a scholar who was also known as the Sage Tea Drinker. Later, Lu Yu searched high and low for his saviour and eventually found the man by Yingjia Bridge. Hence the name of the teahouse — Fangluge — meaning the "Chamber Where Lu the Tea Master Visited".

Competition is keen amongst the teahouses, therefore some have resorted to providing video entertainment to attract business. But this appeals only to young people and drives away the real tea lovers. Teahouses are traditionally places where business information is exchanged and friendly chats and gossip take place. Old townspeople want their teahouses to remain that way, and they naturally regard the presence of a TV set in the drinking room as a nuisance.

There are as many mutton-selling restaurants in Wuzhen as there are teahouses. In front of each restaurant was a coal-burning stove which had been converted from an oil barrel.

Large chunks of meat sat stewing in an iron wok three feet in diameter, emitting an inviting aroma. Wuzhen is known for its mutton, therefore I tried some at the Xingyuan Restaurant and found it tender and juicy, without being greasy. It is commonplace for a restaurant here to go through two or three sheep a day. In some cases a dozen or so sheep are slaughtered, cooked and sold in a single day. The secret to the Wuzhen mutton dish lies in the use of choice spices and a skilful mastery of fire.

Not far from Xingyuan Restaurant stands the Yingjiaqiao Department Store. It is a prototype of the Lin Family Shop described in Mao Dun's famous story of the same name. Having weathered the passage of time over the last century, the store is still as indispensable to the town's heritage as the ancient canal and the strings of teahouses.

Translated by Ling Yuan



*In the early morning hours, farmers from the countryside come to Wuzhen to sell their vegetables to local townspeople.*

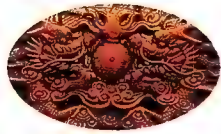


*Fishing people in Wuzhen live on their boats all year round, therefore cleaning is a daily activity.*









# The Famed Wood Carvers of Dongyang

PHOTOS BY XIE GUANGHUI  
ARTICLE BY GAO YE



*These carved balustrades sell well both at home and abroad, as they add an air of simplicity and elegance to old-style buildings, gardens and hotels.*  
*Facing page: Local people have given this Qing-dynasty wooden bed a very poetic name: "A lion falling to the ground from the vine".*



The quiet old street leading to the Lu Family Mansion (1) ■ In Dongyang, when a family's daughter marries, even the sedan-chair is exquisitely carved (2). ■ A beautifully decorated kitchen door (3) ■ Some of the finely carved decorations at the Lu Family Mansion (4)



1



2



4



3



The town of Dongyang in central Zhejiang Province is known as a "home of all trades", as the people here are skilled at producing a wide range of traditional items including homespun cloth, woven goods and wood carvings. Among these, their wood carvings have the highest reputation and can be seen everywhere: at scenic spots, in gardens, temples, hotels and ancient buildings.

Originally Dongyang was a county town, but in recent years was upgraded to a city, with the city proper centred in Wuning Town. In the city there is a park called "The Sea of Arts", which is not particularly large but is extremely luxurious in nature, looking a bit like an imperial garden. The most popular attraction in the park is the newly-established Exhibition Hall of Dongyang Wood Carvings, where several hundred of the best local wood carvings are on display.

In the hall one can see articles made for use by emperors in ancient times, such as dragon beds and dragon chairs. There are also complete sets of exquisitely carved, polished and painted furniture made of padauk wood, chests, screens engraved with scenes from the classic novel *A Dream of Red Mansions*, wall hangings of historical pictures, and different kinds of souvenirs. In addition there are many new types of carvings, such as imitations of the headdresses of minority nationalities, flying Apsaras as in the frescoes of the Dunhuang Caves and Buddhist figures like those in the Yungang Grottoes. Unlike the traditional large-scale carvings, these new ones are simple and succinct. The artisans neither retain the original colour of the

wood nor use a coat of varnish, but instead gild the carvings with gold foil or paint them to give them the effect of being made of bronze, which gives them a very decorative look.

### Dongyang's Modern Wood Carvers

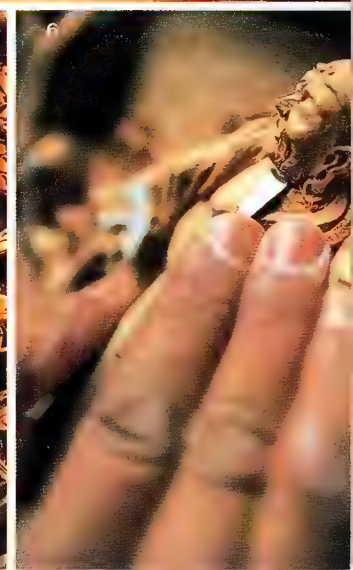
At the Dongyang Wood Carving Factory in Wuning I saw several dozen carvers hard at work sitting at a table in the big workshop. Holding various kinds of tools, some of them were busy with rough-hewn carving, while others were polishing their finished products. On the walls were large sheets showing various designs, and engraved columns with hollowed-out dragons stood behind the door. Blocks of wood lay here and there on the floor amidst piles of wood shavings. The craftsmen were busy turning crude blocks of wood into beautiful works of art, carved with intricate figures, birds and flowers.

In other parts of southern China, girls are generally skilled at raising silkworms or doing embroidery, but in Dongyang things are quite different. In the Dongyang Wood Carving Factory, for example, girls are an indispensable part of the production process. I spoke with a female employee who had come to the workshop three years ago, after graduating from the technical school attached to the factory. She had been doing rough-hewn engraving for all of those three years, a technique which involves using both a hammer and a chisel. It demands not only a high degree of skill but also muscular strength, as



*Suyong Hall in the Lu Family Mansion is a renowned ancient structure in southern China.*





The beautiful patterns on these camphorwood chests are the work of these women carvers (1). ■ A carved gift box in the style of a pagoda (2) ■ Such a delicately carved Thousand-Armed Guanyin statue would probably be impossible for clay sculptors to execute (3). ■ This set of furniture perhaps deserves an imperial palace as its setting (4). ■ Dongyang wood engravings often combine Chinese painting techniques with the content of Chinese historical dramas (5). ■ This carved arhat looks very lifelike despite its small size (6).



one must wield the hammer and chisel at all times. The girl's parents were pattern carvers, and she told me that she was hoping to change the type of work she was doing in order to learn different kinds of techniques. The girl who sat next to her was a newcomer who had just graduated from the factory's technical school and was still serving her apprenticeship. She said she loved her work as a polisher, because it not only turned a semi-finished product into a finished one, but also took a great deal of patience. It was delightful, she said, to watch a refined piece of art coming out your own hands.

Du Yunsong is a senior carver in Dongyang; people call him "the King of Wood Carvings". He seems to be naturally gifted at coordinating his hands, eyes and heart with his hammer and chisel when he engraves, and is able to achieve whatever he wants with his tools. One day he saw a craftsman in the workshop reluctantly preparing to carve some pine tree needles on a block of wood. Du Yunsong took over the chisel and gave the woodblock a few forceful strokes — the pine needles came out immediately in clear relief, just like real ones. He told the man: "You must make a clear study of the wood first, then do the carving quickly. In a few strokes, the picture will take shape. This way, the carving not only looks forceful but also shows one's true skill."

Du Yunsong has been renowned for his unique carving skill in Dongyang since the early 1920s. Dingfeng Hall in Weishen Town, which he constructed in co-operation with other veteran craftsmen,

has exquisitely-carved beams and painted rafters. The patterns and figures carved on the lattice windows show superlative craftsmanship. The hall is regarded as an architectural masterpiece of modern Dongyang wood carving.

Another great master, Huang Zijin, enjoys as much popularity as Du Yunsong and is known as "the Prime Minister of Wood Carvings". He excels both in engraving and painting, and is also very talented in design and composition.

Although these two great masters each have their own style and method, they have one thing in common: They are both very familiar with stories and legends from classical novels, and draw on anything useful from the arts of drama and story-telling to enrich their artistic creations. Whether drawing historical or imaginary characters in their wood carvings, they always do so with great proficiency.

### **The Importance of Wood Carvings in Traditional Architecture**

In the past, countryfolk in southern China would traditionally spend large sums of money to build residential mansions for themselves and their family members. Especially prominent families who wanted to bring honour to their ancestors and raise their social status would often expend huge sums of money to turn their residential quarters into building complexes. Even ordinary villagers regarded building a house as a matter of prime importance in their lives. This tradition



*Women engravers are hard at work on these flying Apsaras.*



1



2



Weaving is still carried out in farming households today in Dongyang (1). ■ Aged wood engravers, after having passed their skills on to the younger generation, no longer need to wield hammer and chisel, but instead pass their time with their friends (2). ■ It is no exaggeration to call Dongyang "the home of all trades". This picture shows the local people's dyed homespun cloth (3). ■ Dongyang carpenters are also excellent wood carvers (4).

3



4





has been carried forward to today. The houses and building complexes of old were not only ingeniously structured and designed, using the best building materials, but were also beautifully decorated. The many Ming and Qing buildings that are still preserved in Dongyang today give witness to this. Their wood decorations, especially the patterns on the pillars, ceilings, doors and windows, are intricately carved. They show the important position of Dongyang wood carvings in the traditional folk architecture of southern China, as well as its long history.

According to historical records, Dongyang was first designated a county in the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220). In the thousand years between the Eastern Han and the Song and Yuan dynasties, there were two large immigrations from the Central Plains. Many prominent families moved from the north to settle in the Dongyang area, bringing with them the well-established culture of the Central Plains. Education became of great importance during the Tang (618-907) and Song (960-1279) dynasties, and there was a large demand for books. This greatly promoted the development of block printing in Dongyang.

By the time of the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), Dongyang people had begun producing block-printed editions of dramas by the writers Guan Hanqing and Wang Shifu. In the later Ming and Qing dynasties, folk dramas became very widespread in the country, providing yet more inspiration for Dongyang wood engravers. In the old houses of some ancient towns in Dongyang County, I saw many wood carvings that took ancient dramas as their themes. The most representative of these are in Shende Hall and Shenxiu Hall in Xiachengli Town.

Dongyang certainly deserves the title of being the home of wood carving in southern China, and what perhaps best represents the unique style of Dongyang wood carving are the architectural decorations on the Lu Family Mansion. The owners of the mansion are descendants of a well-to-do family who emigrated from the Central Plains in ancient times. Because the family was very prosperous, they built many large houses and mansions in the area during the Ming and Qing dynasties.

The Lu Family Mansion is centred round the ancestral hall and is flanked by Suyong Hall and Shude Hall. Around it are six building complexes which are interspersed with more than 40 gardens and courtyards for studying. Suyong Hall's architectural decorations best exemplify the art of traditional Dongyang wood carvings. Huang Zijin, "the Prime Minister of Wood Carvings", commented: "Even the two ends of the beams are exquisitely carved. No modern craftsmanship can compare with it." What he said is true: Even the hall's doors, windows, upturned eaves, brackets and furnishings such as tables, desks, chairs and benches are elegantly shaped and carved. Visiting the Lu Family Mansion is like entering a museum of traditional Dongyang wood carvings.

Dongyang itself is an attractive place with beautiful mountains and rivers, but the wood engravings created by the Dongyang people are even more attractive. Indeed, they are a combination of the beauty of nature and the talent and skill of the people of southern China. ©

Translated by Xiong Zhenru



*This dyed cloth is made by using a special screen printing technique.*





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藍翔

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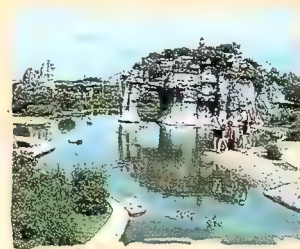
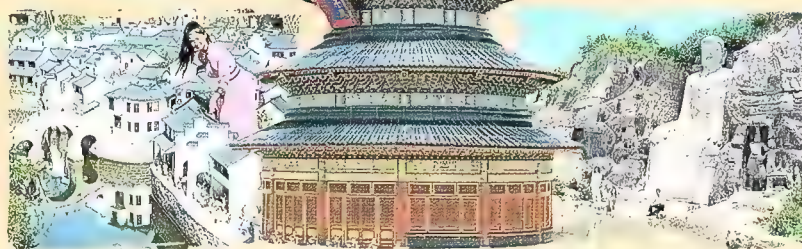
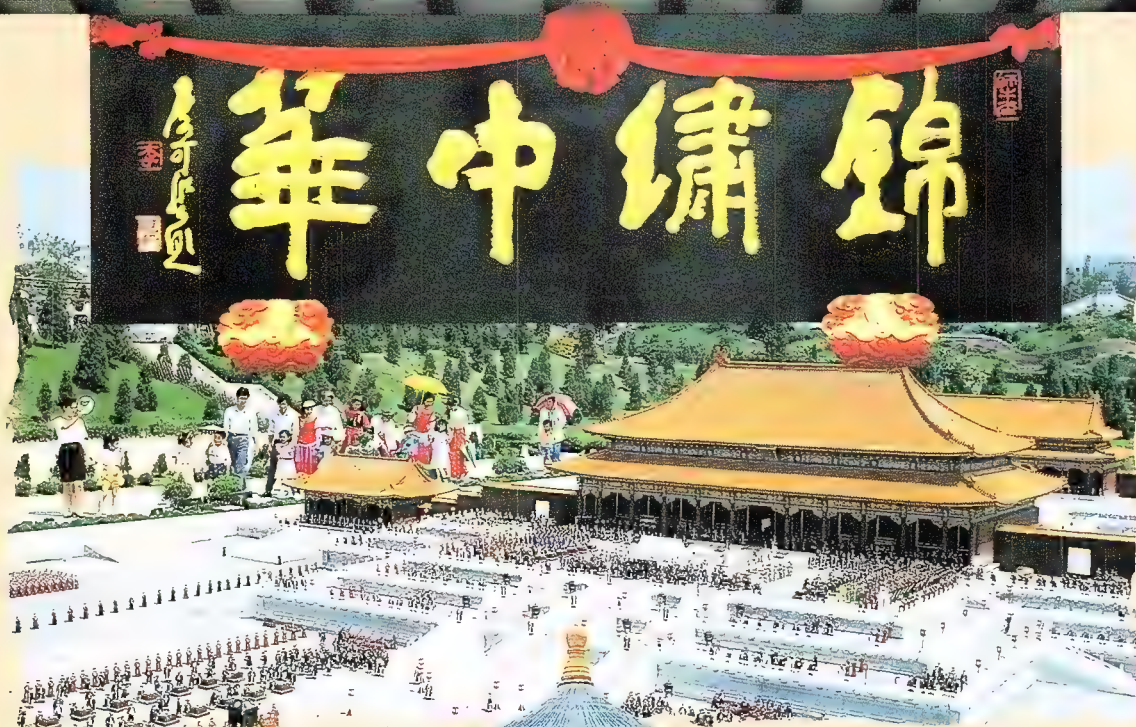


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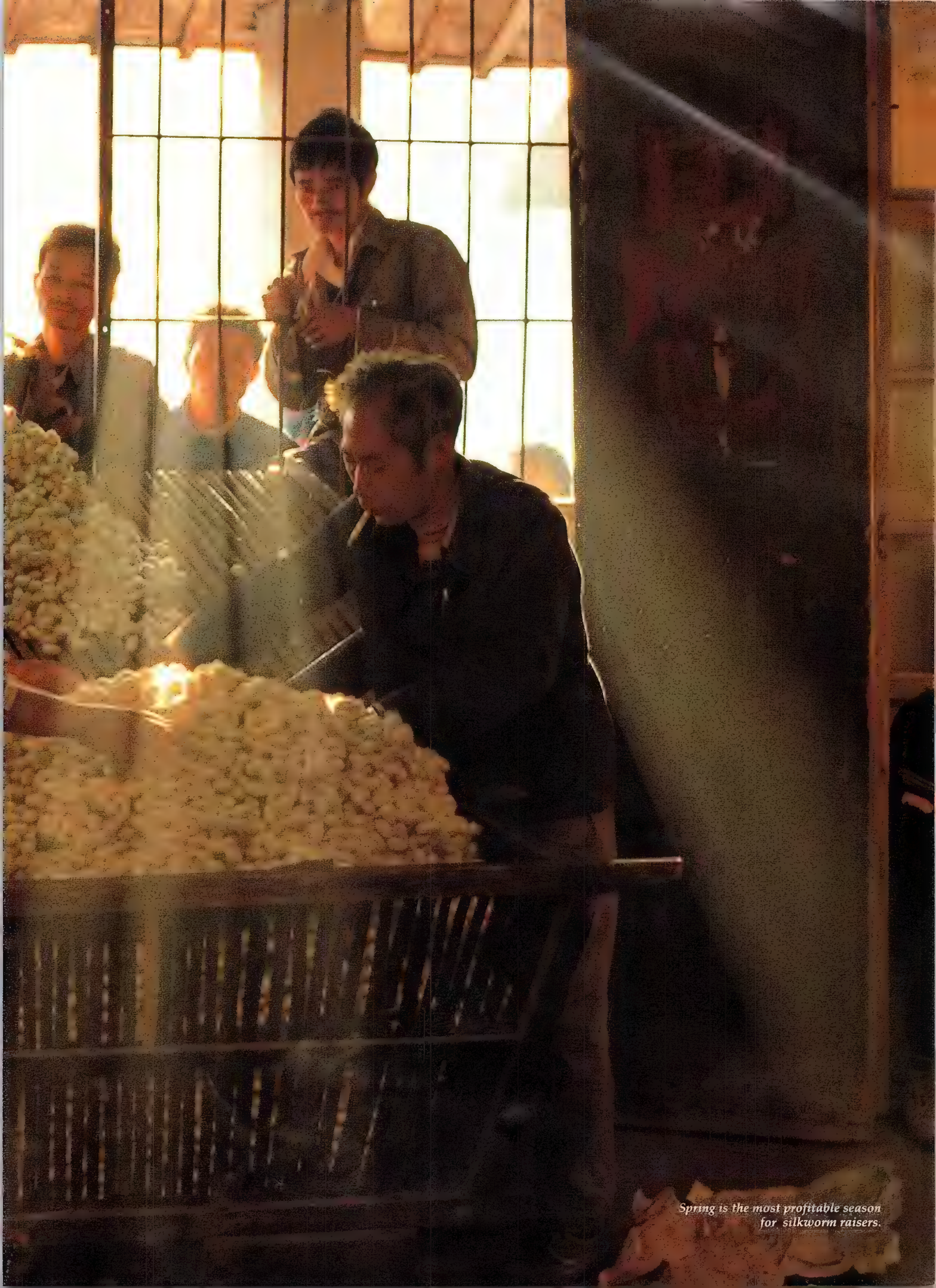




# Making Silk in Xia'ang

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY XIE GUANGHUI





*Spring is the most profitable season  
for silkworm raisers.*





More than two-thirds of China's provinces produce silk, however not all of them are as successful as Zhejiang. For example, because of the hot climate in Guangdong, the silk made by silkworms there tends to be short. Silk made in Xinjiang lacks lustre because of the dry climate, and the damp weather in Sichuan makes the worms stop their making of silk now and then to come up for air, thus cutting the thread into sections. But thanks to the ideal climate in the region embracing Hangzhou, Jiaxing and Huzhou in Zhejiang Province, the silk there is always long and lustrous.

### Silkworm Raising a Test for Brides

After attending the Hanshan Silkworm Festival during the Qingming Festival in Huzhou, I hopped onto a bus head-

**A**lthough most people know of China's long tradition of silk-making, not everybody knows of its historical association with Zhejiang, a province on the eastern coast.

Studies of silk fragments unearthed in 1958 from a Neolithic cultural site in the suburbs of Huzhou concluded that silk first appeared in this part of Zhejiang as early as 4,700 years ago. At that time, during the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B. C.), King Gou Jian of the State of Yue formulated the policy of "advocating sericulture" as a way of making the country prosperous and strong.

By the Han Dynasty, which began in 206 B.C., people in the city of Huzhou and its vicinity were already cultivating mulberry trees for silkworms on a massive scale. During the Song Dynasty (960-1279), silk produced by Zhejiang amounted to one-third of the national total, and by the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) Huzhou and, for that matter Zhejiang, had become well-established in China as key sources of silk.

*Silkworm eggs are like gold to sericulturists, therefore they must be very careful when handling them (1). Right after the Qingming (Bright and Clear) Festival, which usually falls in early April, sericulturists wash their trays in the river to prepare for another year of silkworm raising (2). Every spring, sericulturists bring home bundles of mulberry branches and later feed the leaves to their silkworms (3). Mulberry leaves, which are fed to the silkworms, have a direct bearing on the quality of silk that is produced (4). After going through three inactive periods, the silkworms are moved to the floor to feed. The picture on the wall was put up by the sericulturists to dispel evil (5).*





ing towards the town of Xia'ang. Though Xia'ang is very near Hangzhou on the map, the crisscrossing rivers and canals force the highway to Xia'ang to go on a detour around Huzhou. Along the way the bus passed endless stretches of mulberry orchards. Besides being an important mulberry producer, Xia'ang has also become a base for promoting silkworm science and technology via the Silk Science Research Institute. Five years ago, Xia'ang had no highway to speak of, and the main form of transport was a daily boat service linking the place with Hangzhou. Now, one can take a bus to Hangzhou in just two and a half hours, reducing travelling time by five hours.

Xia'ang (meaning the Lower Ang) received its name from a visit once made here by the noted Yuan-dynasty calligrapher and painter Zhao Mengfu, whose styled name was Zhao Zi'ang. There are two main streets in town which form a letter T. One of the streets is called

New Street, and at one end is a bridge carved with exquisite patterns. Flowing under the bridge is a river with stone slabs lining its banks. Shops and a three-metre-wide sidewalk flank each side of the river; together the two sides are called Old Street.

I arrived just as the town was in the midst of distributing silkworm eggs to village representatives, whose boats were docked along the bank. A middle-aged man called Li Jianjun, who had already collected his village's share of silkworm eggs, was untying his boat when I walked up to him. He readily agreed to my request to take me to his home to see the silkworm raising process. His small rowboat, which was just over three metres long, moved quickly down the river.

We passed tender green mulberry trees, which cast their reflections on the water. I remarked on the large numbers of mulberry trees here as compared with the area around Shaoxing, where the trees are







now extremely rare. Mr. Li told me that in Shaoxing, rural industries are much more developed and profitable, so "naturally people have given up sericulture. Xia'ang, however, is a traditional silkworm raising area," he continued, "and silk raising is a test of a new bride's ability. During the first silkworm season after a couple's wedding, it is customary to let the bride raise silkworms separately from her husband's family. The results will indicate her skill and determine her position in the eyes of the family members and among the villagers."

As we talked, the boat entered a tributary which was flanked by even denser mulberry groves. I asked Mr. Li, "How many spring silkworms have you raised this year?" "Three pieces of paper filled with silkworm eggs" was his answer. He went on to tell me that the eggs from each piece of paper would produce more than 50 kilos of cocoons. I did some mathematics and commented, "You're going to make quite a lot of money when you have harvested the cocoons during each of the five seasons — spring, summer, early autumn,

middle autumn and late autumn." He said nothing, but his smile showed his satisfaction.

### The Incubation Period

Sailing under a stone bridge, we suddenly came upon a village. Women who had been washing clothes by the river saw us and stopped their work. They came over and helped us tie up the boat, and Mr. Li took me to his silkworm incubation room. The villagers followed us, eagerly asking Li questions about raising silkworm eggs.

The brick incubation room was very warm; I noticed both a thermometer and a humidometer on the wall. The room was kept warm by a heating system installed through the thick but hollow walls, and fed by a fire outside. In this way the room was kept both warm and free of soot. All the villagers left their silkworm eggs in this incubation room, and six days later would take the incubated eggs home to raise. They metaphorically referred to the incubation process as "rice





steaming". The age of the silkworms is calculated by the period of time they are in an inactive state before they shed their skin. Each worm goes through four such periods before they begin to make cocoons. Mr. Li told me that in three weeks, these silkworms would be making cocoons and the village would really come alive.

Following his suggestion, I returned to Xia'ang 20 days later. Boats were hurriedly transporting mulberry leaves along the network of rivers and canals. Silkworm raisers, too busy to pick the individual leaves on the trees growing along the dikes, simply broke off branches to take home in bundles. On a flat piece of land, elderly villagers were setting fire to rice stalks in order to burn off the residue left from the last season's silk on the trays. The whole village was busy with activity.

At Li Jianjun's home, his whole family was sitting outside picking leaves off the mulberry branches and putting them in

big baskets. They greeted me as though I were an old friend, and I sat down to lend a hand. I was curious as to why they broke off whole branches rather than first strip them of their leaves, and they told me that mulberry tree bark was a top quality raw material for paper making and that they would sell it to the State. As for the branches after being stripped of their bark, they could be used as firewood, or for building fences as they are free of woodworms. In any case, after the spring the trees need pruning before fertilizer can be added, so it is a practical and efficient method.

Mr. Li's father came outside and found that there were already enough people picking off leaves, so he went about peeling off the bark. For this task, he had a special wooden board with two iron nails in it. When the nails were pulled across a mulberry branch, the bark would fall right off. Before long the baskets were filled to the brim with mulberry leaves. Pressing the leaves gently, Mr. Li said that the worms would be more or less ready to spin their cocoons once they had eaten these leaves. He then put a basket on his shoulder and led me to the silkworm room.

Silkworms prefer windless and shaded places, so when we got inside Mr. Li had to turn on the light. The whole room had been vacated except for a cooking area. Snowy white silkworms the size of a person's little finger were slowly crawling about on the ground. The mulberry leaves that had been brought in a little more than two hours ago had all been consumed except the stalks, on which the silkworms sat with raised heads waiting for more food. My host walked on the elevated planks, spreading out more mulberry leaves, and soon the floor was covered with green leaves. Millions of silkworms began chewing at them with gusto, making a rustling sound that resembled rain falling on banana leaves.

### New Advances Bring Greater Yields

By evening the silkworms had turned a white, almost transparent colour, like fine jade. Excitedly, the whole family removed the planks from the silkworm room and then set up square trays exactly 50 centimetres away from the walls. Somewhat similar to beehives, the square trays were made of cardboard and each had 156 holes. Using these trays to raise up the silkworms instead of the traditional wheat stalks is a technological step forward which was introduced from

*Letting the silkworms build their cocoons on wheat stalks is a traditional method (1). ■ With one quick movement, the left-over silk from last year is burned off clean (2). ■ Japan originally learned sericulture from China, but it was the Japanese who introduced the technique of using these square trays for building cocoons (3). ■ All the girls in the region start helping their parents with silkworm raising at an early age. (4). ■ In Xia'ang, a town crisscrossed by rivers and canals, boats are used for everyday travel and for shipping cocoons to other places (5).*







Thin as paper, the silk fabric spun by the Shuanglin Silk Mill in Huzhou is quality material for making arts and crafts (1). ■ To prepare the cocoons for silk-spinning, they must first be treated to kill the chrysalises inside (2). ■ Silkworm cocoons from the region embracing Hangzhou, Jiaxing and Huzhou can each produce a piece of thread more than 1,200 metres long, and are known for their unique lustre (3). ■ It takes three full days and nights to collect all the cocoons from the town of Xia'ang (4).



Japan. These trays provide much larger and more hygienic areas for silkworms to build their cocoons, thereby improving both the quality and quantity of cocoons.

The silkworms all began making their cocoons at more or less the same time in the village. It was an exciting time for the silkworm raisers, as they visited each other describing the progress of their worms. The supper on the first evening the silkworms begin making cocoons is called the "silkworm dinner", and is a very elaborate feast. That night, after having joined in the "silkworm dinner" with the Lis, I went into the silkworm room again and found that the silvery worms had fully occupied the trays. They were going to be churning out raw silk for the next seven days and nights, until each had completed its own cocoon.

That evening, I met a Mr. Zhang Eping, a noted silk expert in China who had spent more than a decade in Xia'ang studying

sericulture. He told me that during the 1970s, speedy industrial development in Japan wrought serious damage to the mulberry trees there. Learning from this lesson, he and other silk specialists set up a study group to look for ways to prevent a repeat of this occurrence in China.

Because of Xia'ang's ideal geographical environment and long experience in sericulture, the town naturally became an ideal place for scientific research, and thus the location of the Silk Science Research Institute. After doing extensive field studies, Mr. Zhang and his fellow workers introduced a new breed of silkworm eggs called "Spring Bud of Zhejiang" and popularized the method of raising baby worms in stable temperatures, thus successfully increasing their survival rate. They then introduced the square trays on which the worms could build their cocoons. At the same time, they implemented the protective development of mulberry groves. As a result of these innovations, the number of cocoons increased from 300,000 kilos to 700,000







kilos within one year, and the high yield of cocoons brought with it greater development in silk production.

I awoke early on the day the village was to collect its cocoons. A thick layer of morning mist hung over the river, obscuring the bridges and zigzagging fields in the distance. On my way to Mr. Li's house, I passed by several villagers carrying loads of cocoons and heading towards the town. When I arrived, Mr. Li was moving the square trays laden with cocoons out of the house and the whole family began picking out the good cocoons. The spring cocoons, usually large and pure white, are the best and most numerous of the five seasons. Inside the silkworm room, the place where the square trays had previously stood was covered in a thick layer of worm droppings. Li put the droppings into baskets and took them to the mulberry fields — they made an ideal fertilizer.

To my surprise, the tiny silkworm eggs that had fit inside three pieces of paper had produced over a dozen baskets of cocoons. The change was really incredible. Also surprising was the fact that in just

20 days, the baby worms had grown 10,000 times in weight. Most unbelievable was that a single worm could spin out a silk thread 1,200 metres long. Had I not been to Xia'ang and seen it with my own eyes, I would never have believed this could be true.

I went with Li Jianjun to Xia'ang's cocoon collection centre by the river, where some 50 to 60 boats were already docked. The town government had opened up three such centres, and each was equally busy. At this time every year, the centres have their warehouses cleaned, stacks of cash prepared and all five entrances opened 24 hours a day. Small carts are used to bring the fresh cocoons to a drying chamber to have the chrysalises removed first, as only empty cocoons can be admitted into the warehouse. Inside the warehouses, the cocoons are put in bamboo baskets stacked on top of each other, to prevent them from being crushed. Every station works like this for three days running before each season is over.

Right after the Spring Festival holiday, the wharf at Wulinmen in Hangzhou suddenly comes alive with passenger ships disgorging





Combining both traditional and modern methods, silk mills in the region have created a unique dyeing and printing technique (1). After being treated, this fabric is ready to be sold (2). Since Xia'ang produces so much silk, it is common for the local people to make quilts using silk floss, which makes them both light and soft (3). Fashion stores in Huzhou are well stocked with a wide variety of clothes made of local silk (4).



pilgrims, all dressed in blue cotton clothes and carrying yellow cloth bags. Mostly of them are women and come by the busload, with the sole purpose of visiting the many temples in the Hangzhou area. Wherever they go they kowtow, light incense and pray, be it in front of a fairy, the Goddess of Mercy or a heroic figure from history, for they have only one wish: a bumper harvest of cocoons in the coming year. This custom, along with sericulture itself, has been going on in this region for thousands of years, and most likely will continue to do so for many more.

Translated by Huang Youyi





*Devoted silkworm raisers come to pray for good fortune on the summit of Hanshan Hill.*



# Hanshan's Silkworm Festival

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY XIE GUANGHUI

From time immemorial, inhabitants of the waterside villages south of the Yangtse River have been producing silk and depending on the raising of silkworms for their livelihood. Due to the major role played by silkworms in the lives of people here, a great many legends and religious practices have evolved around this tiny creature.

In the area around Zhejiang Province's northern city of Huzhou, worshipping the god of silkworms has been practised since the Tang Dynasty (618-907). The most sacred place of all is Hanshan, located at the juncture of Huzhou, Deqing and Tongxian counties. Every year during the Qingming Festival, which usually falls in early April, people living nearby come to Hanshan to "escort" silkworms home. This ritual is said to ensure a bumper harvest of silkworms, and over the years has turned into a local festival.

One story related to sericulture in this area tells of a father and daughter who lived over 1,000 years ago in the Huzhou area. They



*Pilgrims on their way to Hanshan*



depended on each other greatly and led a peaceful life, until one day the father was conscripted into the army and had to go on an expedition far away from home. Having had no news from her father for a long time and missing him very much, the daughter one day idly told a white horse in their care that if the horse could bring her father home, she would be willing to marry it. That very night the white horse broke free from its tether and galloped away. Sure enough, it returned with the girl's father on its back.

Having learned of his daughter's folly, the father refused to keep the promise and instead killed the white horse, laying out its hide in the courtyard to dry in the sun. Suddenly a gale rose and the horse hide flew away, with the daughter wrapped inside! Later it turned into a silkworm and was found in a mulberry grove. The incarnation of the white horse was later worshipped by the locals as the god of silkworms, commonly known as Mother Silkworm.

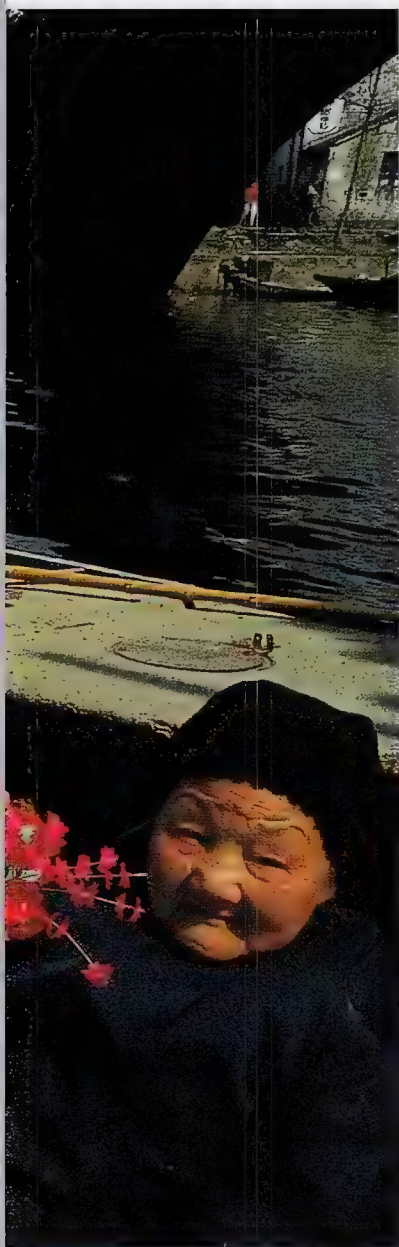
Several days before the Qingming Festival every year, villagers in the Huzhou area begin to make preparations for the celebration. They slaughter chickens, buy meat and make *zongzi* dumplings to offer to their ancestors and Mother Silkworm. The sumptuous feasts prepared for the eve of the festival must be only green in colour, as green represents the joyously ushering in of the spring. They also customarily make a kind of green and white rice snack in the shape of dogs, chickens, ingots or sheaves of silk, which are called silkworm flower cakes and are used to pray for the prosperity of one's livestock and silkworms. On the day of the festival, people bring their sacrificial offerings to Hanshan to worship Mother Silkworm.

Topographically, Hanshan is an earthen mound set in a vast plain. Legend goes that it was a lump of clay dropped from the beak of a passing roc — a legendary giant bird — hence the name Hanshan (Hill Clamped in the Beak). Originally there was a temple and a pagoda on the top of the hill, but the temple has fallen into disrepair and only the pagoda remains. The latter was built in memory of Meng Tian, the creator of the Chinese writing brush.

In the Hanshan area, the Qingming Festival is the grandest day of the year, with the possible exception of Spring Festival (the Lunar New Year). Every year on this day thousands of silkworm raisers and other local people converge at Hanshan to worship Mother Silkworm. All along the road to Hanshan

there are stalls selling flowers. Mostly made by local women villagers, these include paper flowers, silkworm flowers and silk flowers, the latter being the most popular. According to tradition, these flowers are indispensable offerings to Mother Silkworm. In addition, the middle section of a peeled sugarcane should be prepared to stick the flowers on. When the flowers are stuck onto the sugarcane in this way, they symbolize the wish for the continuous development of sericulture, represented by each joint of the sugarcane which grows ever higher.

When I arrived at Hanshan, the steps leading to the summit of the hill and the hill itself were thronged with worshippers. At the top of the hill, pilgrims wearing blue jackets and carrying yellow incense bags and wheat straw stuck with red paper were praying for good fortune. It is believed that silkworms wrapped in red paper that has been used during religious services are blessed by Mother Silkworm. This custom probably comes from the fact that newly hatched silkworms dislike the light, therefore farmers traditionally wrapped them in red paper to protect them from the sunlight.



Leizu working at silkworm breeding

The woman on the bottom right is Leizu, the wife of the legendary emperor Huangdi. Leizu is believed to be China's very first silkworm raiser.



*Vendors at the foot of Hanshan Hill do a brisk business during the Silkworm Festival.*



*Silkworm flower sellers line the path leading to the summit of Hanshan Hill.*



Since ancient times, the Silkworm Festival has also been an occasion for the young people of Hanshan to meet and possibly find one's ideal mate. On this day, single people come in groups to slyly seek out potential partners, while already established couples come simply to enjoy the spring scenery and blooming flowers. Actually, this custom had its beginnings long ago when women who came to pray for their silkworms would often be jostled by groups of young men.

The Hanshan area features a number of crisscrossing waterways, therefore the silkworm farmers who live far away usually come to the festival by boat. Indeed, boats have traditionally been associated with this festival. In the past, decorated boats were

used as altars, where sacrificial offerings such as dried beancurd and vegetarian food were set out to worship the god of silkworms. Other boats filled with silkworm raisers from different regions would gather in front of the altar for a ritual ceremony.

In recent years, because the image of the god of silkworms — once kept in a now abandoned temple — has been lost, this ceremony is no longer performed. Instead, martial arts, acrobatics, singing and musical acts take place aboard the decorated boat. The Silkworm Festival has now become a folk carnival and an occasion for the people living nearby to meet each other.

The festivities reached a climax in the afternoon, when a 10-oar, two-scul boat with

a young woman at the helm sped over from Tongxiang. The arrival of the boat was accompanied by the deafening sound of gongs and drums coming from both banks of the river. Mingled with the clapping and shouting of the audience on the hillside, the noise could be heard far and wide.

This custom is also related to a story dating back to several hundred years ago. One year in Jiaxing's Nanhu Lake area, the mulberry trees there suddenly lost all their leaves and the local sericulturists could find no food for their baby silkworms. A young woman happened to come to Hanshan and found that the mulberry trees there were growing exceptionally well. She hurried back home and told her villagers the good news.

With her as their guide, the villagers rowed speedily to the spot and brought back enough mulberry leaves to save their silkworms. As a result they had a rich harvest that year, but the young woman became overtired and soon died. In memory of her and her great help, every year the people living around Nanhu Lake arrange a party to row a boat to Hanshan to take part in the Silkworm Festival celebrations. And at the helm of the boat there is always a young woman, reenacting the heroine's deeds.

Translated by K.V. Ku

*Over the years, the ritual ceremony of making offerings to the god of silkworms has been replaced by folk performances.*



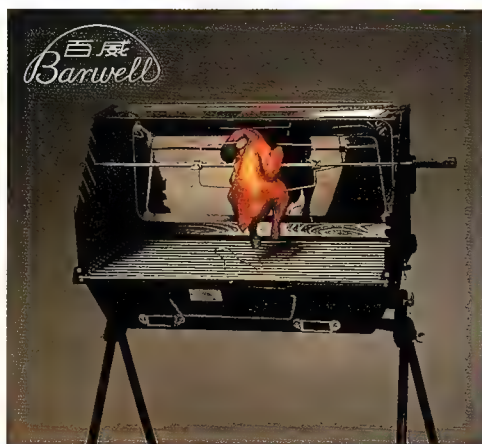
*Green-and-white rice silkworm flower cakes shaped like dogs, chickens, ingots and sheaves of silk are popular sacrificial offerings.*



*Several days before the Qingming Festival, residents in the Huzhou area prepare to make offerings to their ancestors and Mother Silkworm.*



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# A Furtive Glimpse at a Swan's Paradise

ARTICLE BY SONG SHIJING & CHAN YAT NIN





# in Bayanbulak



*These young swans are being  
reared under a watchtower at the  
Bayanbulak Swan Reserve  
(by Chan Yat Nin)*



**Below:** *There are not only swans but also many other birds such as cranes in the Swan Lake area (by Song Shijing).*

**Facing page, top:** *With mountains behind it and the vast plain in front, the town of Bayanbulak is the heart of the Bayanbulak Grassland (by Chan Yat Nin).*

**Facing page, middle:** *The Kaidu River that flows through the Swan Lake area is said to be the headwater of the Tongtian (Heaven-Reaching) River mentioned in the classic novel Journey to the West. Winding its way off into the distant horizon, the river may indeed be a waterway that reaches heaven (by Sun Jiabin).*

**Facing page, bottom:** *The mountains, lakes and grazing animals in the Swan Lake area make a magnificent picture (by Song Shijing).*

Our visit to Swan Lake in Bayanbulak last May was an unforgettable experience. Starting out in Ürümqi, the capital of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, we headed southward in a jeep along the Ürümqi-Kuqa Highway. After winding our way through a valley north of the Tianshan Mountains, we reached Houxia and then drove through an area of ice glaciers at Shengli Pass. We then followed a zigzagging mountain road in the southern foothills before reaching Balguntay. From Balguntay, we turned west towards Yining and continued on a mountain road for about three hours before reaching the boundless grasslands of Bayanbulak.

### A Great Grassland in the Tianshan Mountains

Bayanbulak is under the jurisdiction of the Bayingolin Mongolian Autonomous Prefecture and Jingxian County, and is some 400 kilometres from Ürümqi. It is the largest grassland in Xinjiang and the second largest in the whole of China, next only to the Hulun Buir Grassland in Inner Mongolia. Unlike the other grasslands in Xinjiang, Bayanbulak is broad and flat. Located over 2,400 metres above sea level, it is like a vast plain propped up by the snowy peaks of the Tianshan Mountains. We saw herds of yaks scattered here and there, grazing leisurely on the green grass. People who are accustomed to seeing horses, cows and sheep in Xinjiang might be surprised at the sight of yaks, which many think can only be found in Tibetan areas.

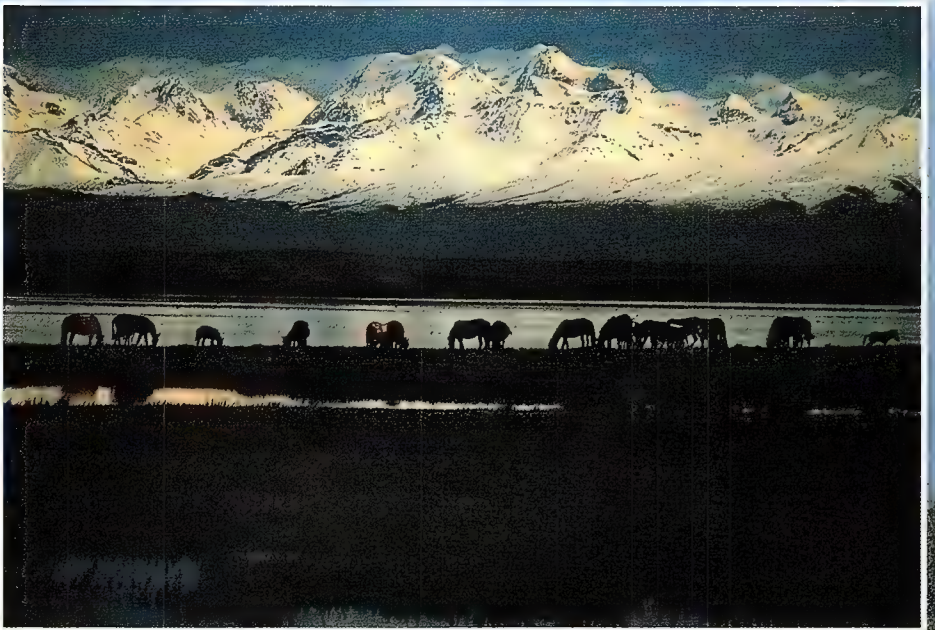
We arrived before dark at the town of Bayanbulak and stayed there for the night. Bayanbulak town is at the centre of the Bayanbulak Grassland, where the Bayanbulak Swan Reserve is located. It is a small town with only about a hundred households, but on the vast grassland it is considered a large habitation. Most of the residents are Mongolians, but there are also people who belong to the Uygur, Hui and other nationalities. Because the town is located in the middle section of the Dushanzi-Kuqa Highway, the third highway through the Tianshan Mountains, it has become a midway station where travellers can get lodging and food, thereby occasionally turning this sparsely populated spot into a place of bustling activity. The town has several hostels and restaurants where delicious Muslim food is served.

Early the following morning, we set out for Bayanbulak Lake, each of us carrying a big pile of *nang* cakes (a staple food of the Uygur people), which would be our only sustenance for the whole day. Our jeep began to bump its way across the grassland, causing flocks of sheep to scamper off in alarm. After covering more than 40 kilometres, we came to a swampy area dotted with grass-covered islets. We had to rely wholly on our guide to pick our way forward and avoid sinking into the spongy ground. The jeep suddenly accelerated to the top of a slope and then came to a stop. The driver breathed a deep sigh, as if he had been relieved of a heavy load.

Suddenly before our eyes was the enchanting scenery of Bayanbulak Lake: snow-capped mountains in the distance, and below them a large expanse of swamps, shallow lakes and small islands, crisscrossed













by winding rivers and streams. The water was clean and transparent. On the grassy banks Mongolian herdsman were grazing their cows, horses, sheep, camels and yaks. Birds were circling in the sky or skimming across the water, and among them we occasionally spotted small groups of swans.

### A Swan's Paradise on Bayanbulak Lake

Although the lake's real name is Bayanbulak, it is commonly known as Swan Lake. To be precise, Swan Lake is not just one lake, but is made up of a great number of small lakes, swamps, streams and grassy islands. This setting forms an ideal reserve for swans, in part because it is so remote that intruders are rare. Every spring, when the ice on the lake begins to thaw, flocks of swan that had flown south for the winter start to arrive. They begin to build their nests and lay eggs in April and May, and there are usually from three to seven eggs in a nest. The male and female birds take turns doing the hatching, which lasts more than 30 days. In the early winter, when the young swans have become full-fledged adults, they fly south with their parents.

From the top of the slope we could not clearly see the swans in the distance; without using our binoculars, we could only tell that the birds were swans by their long necks. We had to move closer to get a better look at them. We got into the rubber raft we had brought with us and, following the instructions of our guide, began to row quietly towards the swans. To reach them we had to cross three streams and then carry the raft over the dry land between the streams, not an easy task.

The swans were highly vigilant and it was difficult to approach without disturbing them. In the end, we had to leave the raft behind and stalk quietly towards the swans, bending down very low. We eventually reached the shores of a small lake, about a hundred metres from a spot where there were countless swans. Some of the swans were swimming on the lake, their necks stretched high; some were frolicking in groups of three or five. Others were just taking a rest on the grass by the lake. A sudden cry by one swan set off an immediate response from the others, and the sound of their cries echoed between the lake, the grassland and the snowy mountains. Greatly moved, we readied our cameras and aimed our telephoto lenses at this rare scene.

**Below: Swans live in peace and comfort in this perfect paradise (by Song Shijing).**

**Facing page, top: Flocks of swans come to the reserve every spring and leave for the south in early winter. During their migration period, they fly a distance of several thousand kilometres and can reach a height of 9,000 metres (by Song Shijing).**

**Facing page, middle: Swans prefer to build their nests in the grass and near water (by Song Shijing).**

**Facing page, bottom: The parents of these newly-hatched young swans spent over 30 days taking turns to hatch their eggs (by Song Shijing).**





**Below: Mongolian herdsmen out on the grassland with their horses (by Chan Yat Nin)**

**Facing page, top: Unlike their forebears, the new generation of herdsmen often travel by motorcycle (by Chan Yat Nin).**

**Facing page, middle: Ox races are held every summer during the Mongolian people's Nadam Fair (by Yan Xingmin).**

**Facing page, bottom: Mongolian herdsmen living by the lake hunt for otters, but they never hurt the swans (by Chan Yat Nin).**

It was the perfect natural conditions of Bayanbulak Lake that first brought the swans here. The lake is located in the Urdus Basin of the Tianshan Mountains, where the average annual temperature is only 4.7 °C. The climate is humid and cool. Topographical and climatic conditions prevent any trees or shrubs from growing here, but in the lakes and swamps there are an abundance of water weeds and insects as well as fish, which are ready supplies of food for migratory birds.

As we furtive humans were trying — with much difficulty — to hide in order to catch a glimpse of the elegant birds, the swans themselves were totally undisturbed by the flocks of sheep and herds of cows grazing nearby. The swan reserve, besides being a paradise for swans, also provides fine grazing land and plenty of clean water for other animals, both wild and domesticated. Bayanbulak itself is Xinjiang's largest pastureland, and a considerable number of the region's livestock are brought to the Swan Lake area to graze. The swans and other birds coexist peacefully with the cows, horses, sheep, camels and yaks that come here to feed. Some local herdsmen herd their animals on horseback, but even they do not scare off the swans. We were told by some local Mongolian herdsmen that since ancient times the local people have always looked upon the swan as a symbol of purity and good fortune. They never try to catch a swan nor steal its eggs, but instead leave the swans alone to live in peace. This simple yet all too rare attitude towards animals is probably the main reason why the swans have stayed here, and why we had the opportunity to observe these beautiful creatures.

Translated by Tang Bowen











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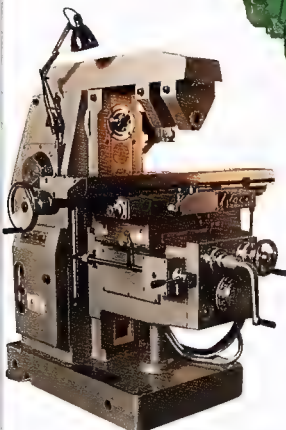
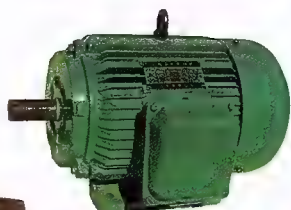
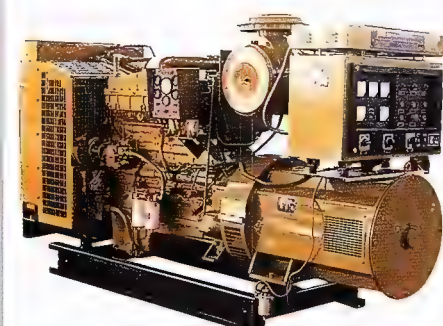
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鴉片戰爭博物館

# An Historical Tour of Humen

ARTICLE BY WU YE



在鴉片戰爭中  
英勇犧牲的人民英  
雄們永垂不朽





*This cannon in the Shajiao Cannon Turrets sits on circular iron tracks, therefore it could be moved around while shelling an enemy. Although hardly extraordinary now, it was quite incredible to have a cannon like this in those days (by Lam Kin Fai).*

*A topographical map of Humen fortification*



*Facing page: The Opium War Museum in Humen is built like a fortress, and in front is a statue of Lin Zexu. Further out, there is a picture in memory of the Opium War (by Chan Yat Nin).*



*Lin Zexu and his men destroying opium is shown in paintings and wax figurines in the Opium War Museum in Humen (by Lam Kin Fai).*

*This mural incorporates real objects to better give one an idea of what the place looked like back then (by Lam Kin Fai).*



*This cannon, weighing 12,500 kilos, was the largest of its kind at the time (by Chan Yat Nin).*







*The entrance to the Binhai Cannon Turret, set amidst the defensive works at Shajiao, is quite similar in architectural style to ancient archways in the south of China (by Lam Kin Fai).*



*Most of the cannons in Weiyuan are camouflaged in caves (by Chan Yat Nin).*



*This recess for storing shells is so large that it can hold a person (by Lam Kin Fai).*

Those familiar with modern Chinese history may have heard of the town of Humen in Guangdong Province, for it was here in 1839 that Lin Zexu, Governor-General of Hunan and Hubei provinces, destroyed 20,000 chests of opium in an attempt to enforce the ban on the drug. This, in turn, brought about the Opium War the following year and a number of unequal treaties with foreign powers, thus marking a significant turning point in China's dynastic history.

I first went to Humen a few years ago to visit some of its more renowned historical sites, such as the Opium-burning Pit and the Shajiao Cannon Turrets. In recent years, due to the development of tourism, some new historic spots have been opened to the public, therefore I decided to make another trip to Humen. I planned to see all the spots connected with the Opium War in a systematic way, thus on my itinerary this time were the town of Taiping, the Shajiao Cannon Turrets, the Weiyuan Cannon Turrets, and the two small but once strategically important islets named Upper Hengdang and Lower Hengdang, located near the Pearl River estuary.

I boarded a ship in Hong Kong and reached the town of Taiping in a little over an hour. It was actually in Taiping, just next door to Humen, that Lin Zexu destroyed the opium. Like many others, I thought that the opium had been burnt in a huge fire, but this was a mistaken impression I had acquired through films. Only when I got to the place did I realize that his way of destroying opium was most scientific.

The pit in which the opium had been destroyed was linked to a ditch which lead to the Pearl River estuary. Between the pit and the ditch there was a sluice-gate. Lin Zexu had his men first lift the sluice-gate to let the water flow in, and then threw some salt into the pit. The opium was crushed and cast into the pit, where it was absorbed into the salt water. Lastly, limestone was thrown into the pit, which turned the whole mixture into something like dregs. When the tide was low, the sluice-gate was lifted again so that the entire contents were washed into the sea.

During my first visit to Humen, there had been nothing but a stretch of open land around the pit, but now a museum on the Opium War had been built nearby. A number of cultural relics were on exhibit and included a panoramic painting depicting a scene from Humen in the old days. Apart from the painted background, there were objects, models and so on in the foreground, giving it a three-dimensional effect. The objects were arranged according to perspective, with those nearest being fairly large, while the others were smaller. I felt as if I were really standing on the banks of the Pearl River over 100 years ago. At that time, half of the river was sealed off by rafters, iron chains and wooden posts which had been secured in the river bed. Boats could only enter the river through



a narrow opening. The riverbank on one side and the islet on the other were dotted with cannons to safeguard the place and, if necessary, would give a telling blow to any hostile ship which dared to venture into the river.

The first line of defence for Humen consisted of the Shajiao and Dajiao Cannon Turrets, which were placed on either side of the river. The second line of defence included Weiyuan, Jingyuan, Zhenyuan, the Upper and Lower Hengdang Islets, and the Yong'an Cannon Turret. The Dahushan Cannon Turret was the third line of defence. The first line was responsible for observation and giving warnings, while the second line included some key defensive works.

Having visited the museum, I now had a general picture of the whole area. Next, I got on a mini-bus and went to the Shajiao Cannon Turrets, part of the first defensive line. Still a place of strategic importance today, these large, well-preserved turrets are quite a spectacle. Many of the cannons' muzzles were aimed at different heights at a place called Chuanbi Ocean, and some of them were very well camouflaged. One had to go through several tunnels to reach them, as they all sat right on the side of a cliff. Unfortunately, their range was so limited that all they could do was to give a sign of warning if necessary — it was impossible for them alone to hold back invaders.

The cannon turrets I saw were all about the same: Each cannon sat in the middle of a round enclosure, whose wall was built in such a way that shells could be stored in it. There was also a large recess, which was supposed to be the place for the commander to hide in. The turrets themselves have remained intact, but the cannons and shells are no longer. Still, it was not difficult to picture what it must have been like back then when these weapons were in frequent use.

One especially large cannon was imported from Germany, but the cannon balls they ordered for it were the wrong size and could not be used. Furthermore, the artillerymen had no idea how to use the weapon and the very first cannon ball got stuck, thus giving it the name, "the Dumb Gun".

Having visited the Shajiao Cannon Turrets, I went to see the Weiyuan Cannon Turrets, the second line of defence for Humen. Located in a hard-to-reach place, this group of turrets was also built on the side of a cliff. First built in 1718, in the reign of Emperor Kangxi of the Qing Dynasty, the cannons were all aimed at a river in the southwest. The turrets were actually caves hollowed out of the hillside with interconnecting tunnels. Most of the caves were situated right over the river while a few were on the top of the hill. Unlike the authentic cannons I had seen at Shajiao, the ones exhibited here were replicas installed only a few years ago.

The cannon turrets here were well organized and solidly built. In the days of the



*On the sea wall of an observation post at the Weiyuan Cannon Turrets, these holes were once used for observation and shooting at the enemy (by Lam Kin Fai).*

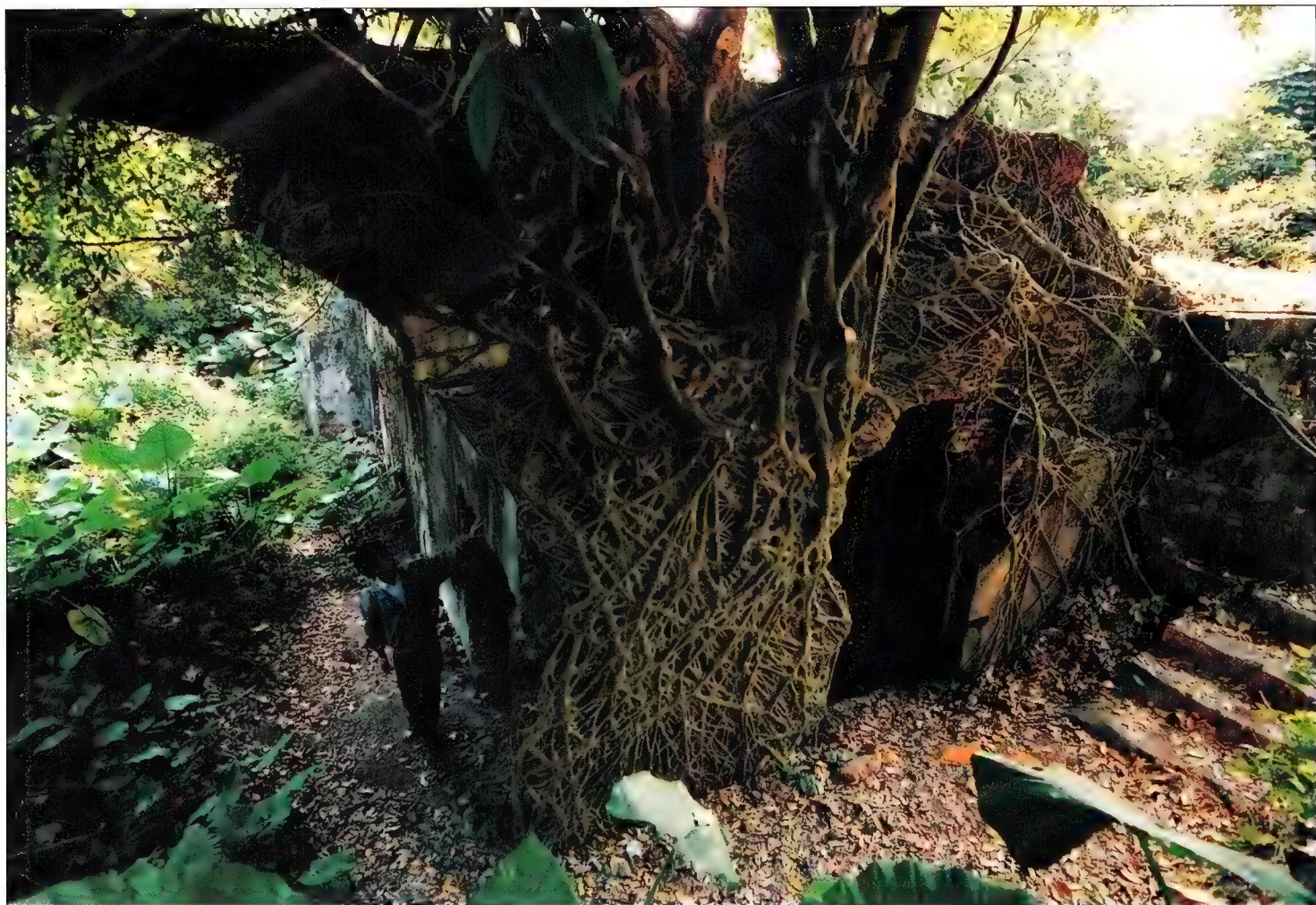


*These cannons in Weiyuan are aimed at the mouth of the Pearl River (by Chan Yat Nin).*



*Upper Hengdang Islet, crisscrossed with ditches and tunnels, was easy to defend and difficult to attack (by Chan Yat Nin).*





**Top:** The former barracks of Qing soldiers have now merged with the roots of an ancient banyan tree (by Chan Yat Nin).

**Bottom:** The Upper Hengdang and Lower Hengdang Islets, locking the estuary together with the Wei Yuan Cannon Turrets, lie in turbulent water. This photo of Wei Yuan was taken from the islets (by Chan Yat Nin).

**Facing page, top:** This view of Lower Hengdang Islet, as seen from the mouth of a tunnel on Upper Hengdang Islet, shows its strategic importance in guarding the Pearl River estuary (by Chan Yat Nin).

**Facing page, bottom:** The defensive works in Wei Yuan have withstood both gunfire and turbulent waves (by Lam Kin Fai).

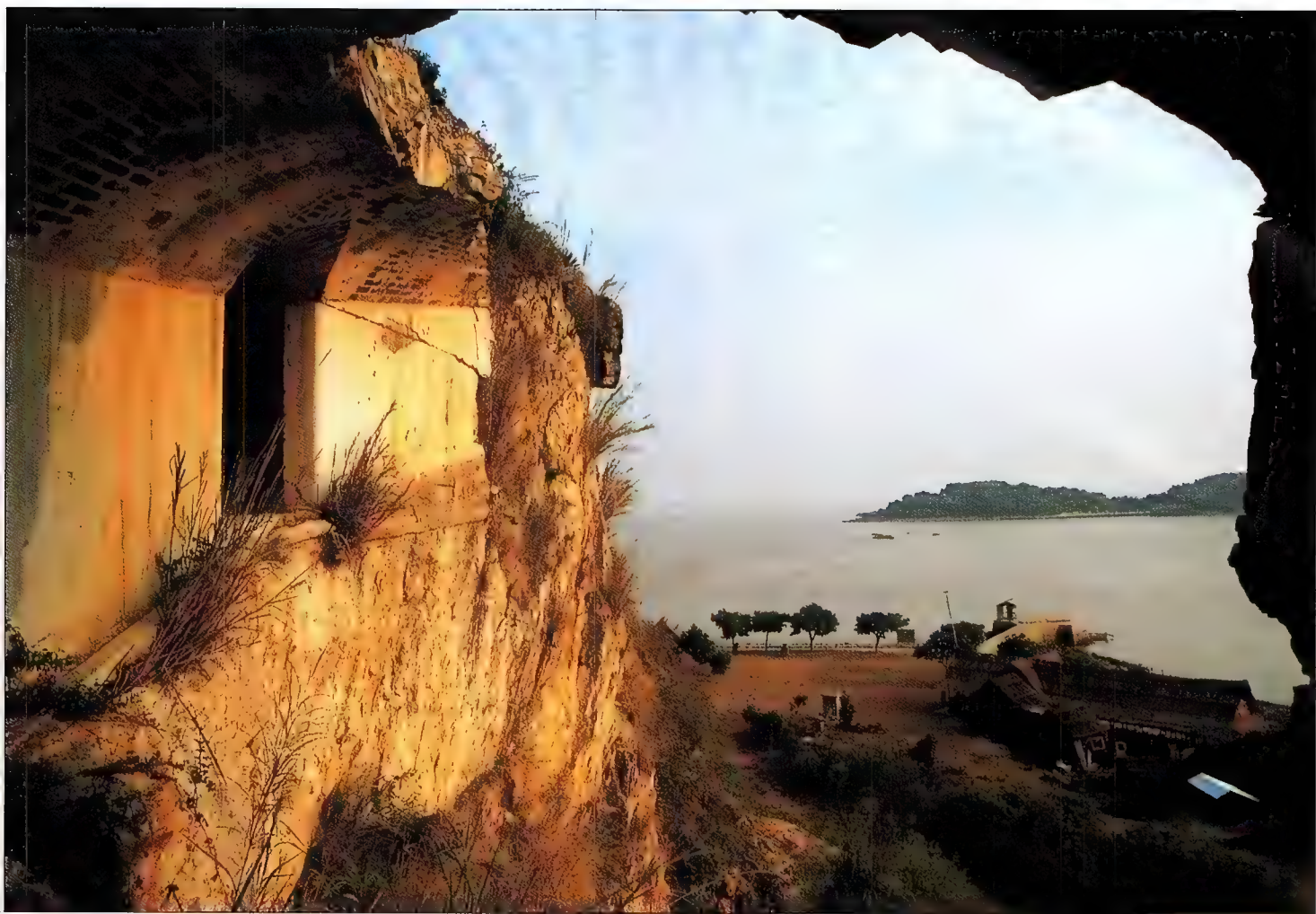
Kangxi reign, we were told, there was no cement, therefore the turrets were all built with bricks and rocks. However, they were seriously damaged during the Opium War, and when they were rebuilt in the reign of Emperor Daoguang (1821-1850), the original bricks and rocks were replaced by cement. Therefore it was easy to tell which of the turrets had been built in the Kangxi reign and which in the Daoguang reign.

As water lapped against the foot of the hillside, I had a good look at the cannon turrets. Despite long years of natural wear, they were still in good shape due to their hidden location and the high quality of building materials and techniques used back then. Unfortunately, the range of all these cannons was inferior to those on British ships, therefore the cannon turrets themselves became targets for attack. On the hilltop, the cannons all sat in concave round crates, around which were small caves for storing artillery.

The next stop on my historical tour was Lower Hengdang Islet, accessible by ferry from Taiping. The Upper Hengdang and Lower Hengdang Islets, located in the middle of the estuary, are under the jurisdiction of Panyu County. The ferry set off from Taiping and sailed through muddy water for about 40 minutes before reaching Lower Hengdang Islet. The expanse of water around this islet had once served as a gateway to the country, and was therefore heavily guarded by the many cannons I had just seen.

Both the Upper and Lower islets had recently been turned into tourist spots, although as tourist attractions, I think, there is still room for improvement. The "villa" I had booked turned out to be a stilted bamboo house overlooking the river. There were about a dozen rooms, and each





could take two people. There were basic facilities such as electric fans, lights and so on, and the rent was fairly cheap.

Early the next morning, I went to see the ancient cannon turrets on the islet. There were quite a number of fortresses and as many as eight or nine large turrets. However, they were not as well preserved as those in Shajiao or Weiyuan, with only their foundations remaining. The arrangement of these cannon turrets and the tunnels linking them was done according to the topography of the place. Since the purpose of the fortresses and turrets was to safeguard the waters off to the east, they sat mostly on the eastern side of the islet. From here, one could see the row of cannon caves in Weiyuan across the river, thus the two sides had indeed formed a good defensive line.

I got on the ferry again and sailed towards Upper Hengdang Islet, smaller in size than the lower one. There were six cannon turrets here and the entrance to the East Turret was still in good condition. In the centre of the islet was a flat drilling ground, which was, however, seriously damaged by shells during the war. There were no actual cannons either on this islet or Lower Hengdang Islet; only some dilapidated defensive works remained. Nevertheless, they provided me with enough information to learn about the defensive works in place a century ago.

There are not many sights on the two islets, but what I did see was quite valuable. Especially after visiting Taiping, Shajiao and Weiyuan, I felt that I now had a much better understanding of each place's historical significance. Reading about history is one thing, but actually visiting the sites where it all took place makes scenes from the past vivid and real, rather than just facts and figures in a book.

Translated by Wang Mingjie







*Children are usually asked to present food to guests, but this child is too shy to carry out the mission in front of strangers.*



*A Jiarong Tibetan woman carries a long string of red pepper, the main spice of the Tibetan people, to store on the roof.*

# The Jiarong Tibetans Celebrate Their Harvest

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY GE JIALIN

**A**ccording to historical records, the Jiarong Tibetans are a branch of Tibetans who moved in remote antiquity from Qungbu in Tibet to live in the Songpan Plateau of northern Sichuan. Unlike the highland Tibetans who lead a nomadic life, they chose to settle in the V-shaped valley between the Zagunao River rising in the Zhegu Mountains and the upper reaches of the Minjiang River. They developed arable wasteland piece by piece and earned a living by growing maize.

The houses the Jiarong Tibetans live in resemble fortresses, so are locally known as "blockhouses" or stockades. Several dozen of these, connected in a row, are

magnificent when viewed from a distance. As there are rocks everywhere in the region, people draw on this local resource constructing houses of rocks along the mountainside. Constructed entirely out of white rocks, with no wood pillars or beams between the walls, the houses are narrow at the top and wide at the base. Generally they are three storeys in height with single-log ladders that serve as staircases. The ground floor is used to keep livestock or store hay; the second floor is a storeroom for grain and possessions; the third floor serves as living quarters including bedrooms, living room and kitchen. Most of the rooms are panelled and painted. Or

*In spring, the gold and green fields look like carpets unfolding in front of the Tibetan homes.*







*After the autumn harvest, every Jiarong Tibetan household busily prepares for the Ruomuniu Festival. In addition to helping with levelling the ground, each family has to slaughter two pigs.*



*All Jiarong Tibetan women know how to sew. The clothes they make are very colourful as one can see from these pictures. Whenever they have time, they twist thread.*

the roof of the house, racks are generally constructed to store maize and also contains shrines.

### Language and Character

The Jiarong Tibetans wear clothes similar to the Tibetans of Tibet; it is difficult to differentiate one from the other just by appearances. But the Jiarong Tibetans have their own language, although the basis is almost the same. The prefixes and suffixes are different from those of the Tibetan language used in Tibet. The Jiarong Tibetans speak their own special dialect, and as they ride horses on the vast pastureland the whole year round, they

have formed their own bold and rugged character.

In late autumn, the valley along the Zagunao River within the Lixian County is covered with golden poplar and red maple. The river rolls on incessantly. Walking through the fallen leaves along the river bank, one can hear songs and laughter from the mountains. The expanse of the deep mountain valley cannot conceal the uninhibited character of the Jiarong Tibetans.

The Jiarong Tibetans are not only sincere and honest but also hospitable. Whoever comes to their villages are treated as distinguished guests, no matter whether

they are frequent visitors or total strangers. If you happen to come upon a wedding, you will be invited to attend it and asked to take the seat of honour at the banquet table. As the Jiarong Tibetans say, it is fate that brings people together, a reflection of their Buddhist beliefs. Now that visitors have arrived and chanced upon a wedding, both guests and hosts drink to their heart's content. And after the wedding banquet, the host will ask the guest to stay on for a few more days.

### Celebrating the Ruomuniu Festival by Sprinkling Wine

The Jiarong Tibetans attach great importance to the celebration of their festivals. The Ruomuniu Festival, a harvest celebration which takes place in October every year, is a fine example. This time, during my tour in the Shaba Area, I had the good fortune to participate in this grand festival.

Early that morning the Jiarong Tibetans, wearing their best clothes and ornaments, came out of their houses and made for the little bridge over the Zagunao River, at



*The younger generations of Jiarong Tibetans do not realize the significance of the rice offering.*



*At the grand Guozhuang Dance, a venerable elder, a string of horse bells in hand, walks in the front, followed by a group of young men and women, dancing as they go.*

the end of which stood a high Mani Mound, on top of which were planted various flags inscribed with Buddhist scriptures. Everyone had to walk counter-clockwise around the mound three times before crossing the bridge. As they walked, they murmured prayers, begging for blessings and domestic happiness. On the river bank beside the bridge, a big fire had been built, where fragrant grass and cypress branches crackled, emitting such dense clouds of smoke that people could hardly keep their eyes open. According to local customs, the thicker the smoke, the better, as they believed the smoke can purify people's souls.

After three muffled shots from home-made cannons, the lamas began to chant scriptures, their voices reverberating along the river bank. This formally proclaimed the opening of the Ruomuniu Festival. Everyone, men and women, old and young, found a place to sit down. Girls brought wine in bowls on a square tray and presented each with a bowl of wine. Bowl in hand, everyone loudly exchanged greetings with each other. Then they dipped a finger in the wine and flicked it towards the sky, the earth and the world of men before drinking it.

### **The Guozhuang Dance**

In the evening after dinner, as night descended, people began to light torches.



Then, in the torchlight, they stood hand in hand in circles for the *Guozhuang* Dance.

The *Guozhuang* Dance is in fact a kind of collective dance. The dancers must drink wine while dancing and go through a series of formalities. First, a few lamas entered and, chanting scriptures, walked around three covered earthenware jars placed on the ground in the centre of the circle. Then a venerable elder opened the jars and put some bamboo tubes into them. After that, everyone went up one by one according to age and seniority to take a sip of wine through the bamboo tubes. Then the *Guozhuang* Dance commenced.

The dancers raised their arms high, kicked their feet, turned around and

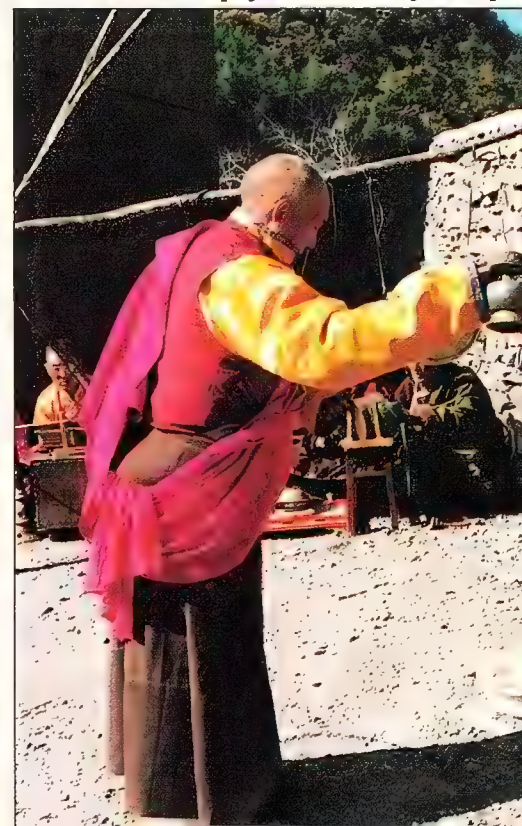
tapped their feet all to the rhythm of music. Each of them danced skilfully. During the course of the dance, they were presented with wine to drink. The liquor made them dance even more vigorously.

After the first round of the dance came the more difficult second round. The dancers of the first round retreated to the rear to let the more experienced ones come to the fore. This group was led by five seventy-year-old elders. Shaking horse bells fastened with red silk ribbons, they danced cheerfully amidst music and songs. They were followed by a group of young men and women dancers.

Then a column of people entered and formed a big circle. They slowly reduced

*The first thing the Jiarong Tibetans do in the morning is to burn incense and perform ritual acts of worship.*

*The slopes have been turned into terraced fields and have been sown with high-yield potatoes.*







**At the Guozhuang Dance, dancers, men and women alike, pick up the bowls with their mouths and drink the wine without using their hands.**

the size of the circle, moving in towards the centre, and then, having one by one taken a sip of the wine, danced forming a wider circle. The performance was spectacular, especially when viewed from a height.

At this stage, wine in earthenware bowls was brought in on a square tray. The tray was placed on the ground in the centre of the circle, the signal for the main part of the dance to proceed.

The male dancers suddenly knelt on the ground, raised their two arms high and lowered their heads resembling the position of an eagle about to take flight. They picked up the earthenware bowls with their mouths, and then raised their

heads slowly to let the wind drain down to their mouths through their teeth, all without using their hands. They managed to drink the whole bowl of wine without spilling a single drop. Then they stood up, turned around and when the girls took the empty bowls away from their mouths, won warm applause from the crowds of on-lookers.

The female dancers danced yet more gracefully. They also knelt on the ground and raised their two arms high, but their movements were more graceful. Furthermore, they had to shake their shoulders before and after they had picked up the bowls with their mouths and drank the wine. Their dance resembled peacocks

playing with water, and they won warmer applause from the crowd.

The Guozhuang Dance fully showed the strength and grace of the Jiarong Tibetans. Encouraged by others, I went up to have a try. But before my lips had even touched the bowl, the wine spilled all over the ground, arousing a peal of laughter. The dance really required a lot of skill and physical co-ordination. No wonder some of the younger ones preferred to form another circle by one side to disco or break-dance.

As the Ruomuniu Festival is held to celebrate a good harvest, it always takes place after the autumn harvest and lasts until winter sets in and the cold wind blows up snow to cover the mountains. In winter, when the land is covered by deep snow, the Jiarong Tibetans leave their houses to clear the roads. Usually, it is the early risers who do this job.

In the long winter people stay at home rejoicing over the pleasure the jubilant Ruomuniu Festival has given them the previous autumn. With such happy memories, it is easier to while away the bitterly cold winter. Of course, the Jiarong Tibetans, who depend mainly on farming and live more or less at the mercy of the elements, always hope they will have a good harvest every year.

Translated by Xiong Zhenru

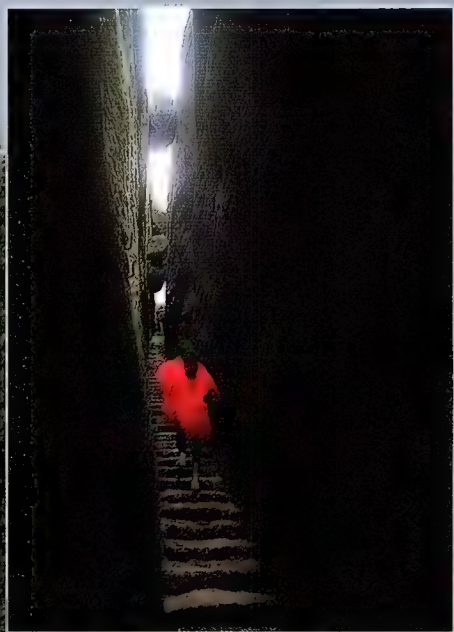


**Scriptural flags flutter in the wind praying on behalf of those who put them there. No one is allowed to go near them except for these farm cattle.**

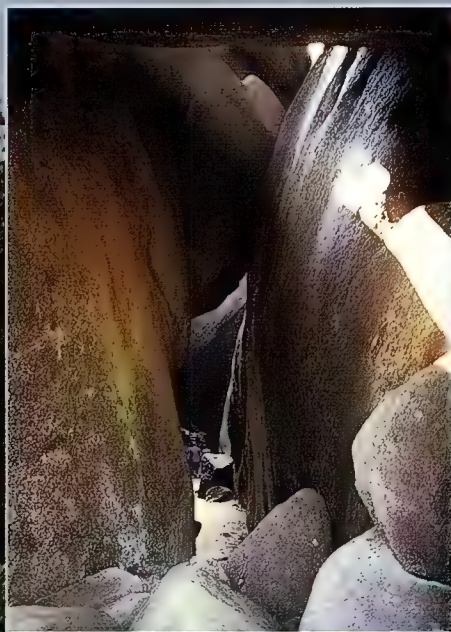




*Mysterious Taimu Mountain is often covered with mist and clouds (by Wang Miao).*



*Baima Cave winds through the fissures of huge rocks (by Chapman Lee).*



*For some, passing through Seven Star Cave might be a tight-squeeze! (by Xie Guanghui)*





# The Half-Hidden Beauty of Taimu Mountain

ARTICLE BY XIE GUANGHUI

**L**ocated in Fuding County in the most northeastern corner of Fujian Province, Taimu Mountain stands some 1,000 metres above sea level and has a circumference of 20 kilometres. Legend has it that during the reign of the legendary monarch Emperor Yao, there was an old woman who cultivated orchids on the mountain. She later became an immortal and flew off into the sky, therefore the mountain was called Taimu (Grandmother) after this great woman.

Taimu Mountain consists of 54 peaks, the highest of which is Moxiao Peak, a popular place for watching the sunrise. After having lunch in the town of Qinyu, my companion and I started up the mountain amidst heavy clouds and drizzle. The bus brought us to the Taimu Mountain Hotel, but the wind and rain prevented us from going outside until the afternoon, when the rain stopped and the clouds dispersed. Leaving the hotel, we climbed up the slope and came to an octagonal, seven-storey stone pagoda built during the Tang Dynasty (618-907). Turning around, we saw in the distance a cloud-covered peak which looked like two lovers standing together chest to chest. It is in fact called Fuqi (Husband and Wife) Peak.

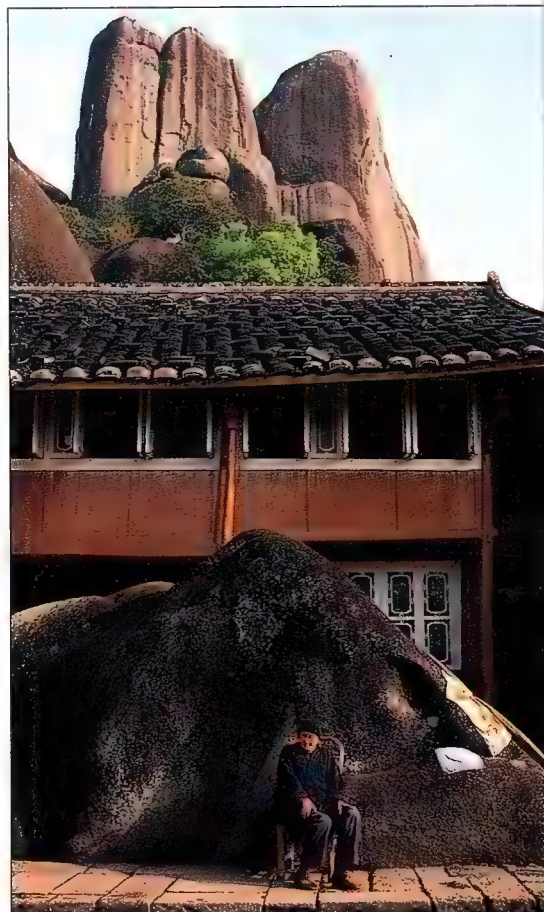


We walked along a tree-lined path leading away from the pagoda and came to the ruins of Xingguo Temple. According to ancient records, during the Tang Dynasty the temple covered a large area and had three halls. Today, even in the ruins one can see reminders of its past splendour. Its 300-odd stone columns, the stone sculptures of animals, birds and flowers, and the stone pool all reflect artistic features common to the late Tang Dynasty.

### A Landscape of Mountains and Sea

The next day we got up early so as to watch the sunrise from the top of the mountain. We walked past the pagoda, through the ruins of Xingguo Temple and up the mountain along the so-called Mr. Sa's Path. This 2.5-kilometre path leads to Baiyun (White Cloud) Temple and was built by Admiral Sa Dingming in the early years of the Republic (1911-1948).

*Yipianwa Temple is located between a steep cliff and a huge rock (by Xie Guanghui).*



*A great number of stone carvings from the Tang Dynasty can still be seen in Xingguo Monastery at the foot of Taimu Mountain (by Liu Jie).*



*From Yipianwa, one has a wonderful view of "Nine Carps Facing the Sky" (by Wang Miao).*





Fourteen-year-old Jie Ling was the only disciple in the Bat Cave Nunnery when we visited (by Xie Guanghui).

Tea is often spread out to dry in the temple halls (by Xie Guanghui).



The nuns offering tea they have personally grown to visitors (by Xie Guanghui)



top of it one can see Shangxin (Heart-Broken) Rock right in front. True to its name, this rock looks just like a man with a broken heart — his mouth tightly closed and eyelids swollen — indeed a masterpiece of nature.

### Enjoying Tea at “A Piece of Tile”

Rather than continue on to Baiyun Temple, we went to visit Yipianwa (A Piece of Tile) Temple. Its unusual name does not mean that the temple was only made with one piece of tile, but comes instead from a protruding tile-shaped rock on the cliff that hangs over the monastery. The temple not only has a strange name, but also played a particular role in history, for it was here that Taimu became a deity and flew up to heaven.

Shaded by bamboo groves, the temple has a tranquil and secluded atmosphere. A large Chinese character meaning “Buddha” greeted us as we climbed up the stone stairway. All the temple buildings have been constructed according to the terrain of the mountain slope, creating a scene of utter harmony with nature. The main hall houses a statue of Taimu, and in the temple compound there is a vegetarian restaurant with two lay disciples who serve as cooks. We had lunch here, and afterwards the abbot of the temple invited us upstairs for some tea. Since ancient times mountain temples have been known for their exceptional tea, and this place was no exception. The tea leaves floated lightly on the water, which had turned a brilliant yellow colour. Fresh and sweet, this tea is one of Fujian’s best, and is called Silver Needles with White Hair.

According to documents from the Tang Dynasty, a kind of tea known as Green Snow Bud Tea was produced on Taimu Mountain at that time, which came from a tea tree that still stands on top of Hongxue Cave behind the temple. There is a small well inside the cave, and legend has it that the tea tree was planted by Taimu herself and was nourished with water from this well.

At Yipianwa Temple we heard a story about Shi Yao, the present abbess of the Bat Cave Nunnery nearby. We were told that she was once a cadre in the region, but later fell seriously ill. She went everywhere looking for a cure, but it was all in vain until she was brought to Bat Cave, where she stayed for one year as she recovered from her illness. She became a Buddhist, and is now so strong she can carry a 50-kilogram load up the mountain.

The Bat Cave Nunnery is located below Yipianwa Temple. After descending more than 200 steps we reached the nunnery, but Abbess Shi Yao was not in. A very young nun called Jie Ling came out to receive us. Only 14 years old, she was the only disciple in the nunnery.

On Yingxian Terrace we were rewarded with an excellent view of the town of Qingyu. This small coastal town at the foot of Taimu Mountain has the nickname of “Little Fuzhou”, because many people immigrated here from Fuzhou during the early Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Even today most of the people still speak the Fuzhou dialect. Suddenly sun rays began to poke through the clouds in the east, shining on the numerous islets in the sea below and on the roofs of buildings in the town — an indescribably beautiful sight.

We continued our uphill climb and after a short distance the path forked off in two directions. To the right were two ancient characters carved into the cliff indicating the direction of Baiyun Temple. Following the sign, we passed through Sanfuyao (Arching One’s Back Three Times) Cave, so named due to the three places where the passage is so narrow that one must bend over in order to get through it and to the top of the mountain.

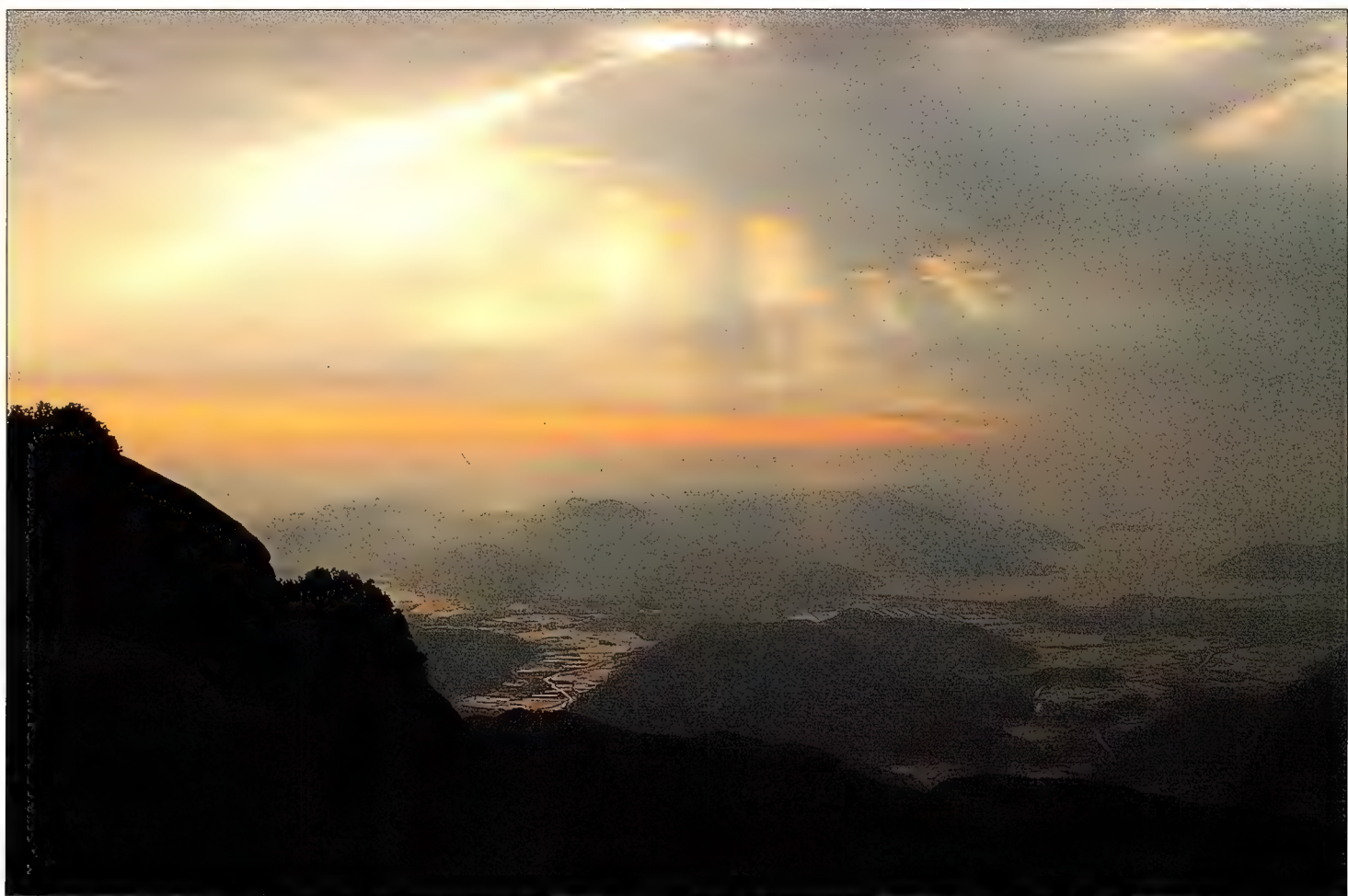
In the dim light filtering down through the fissures of the cave we saw a stone stupa off to the right, known as Zhenhai (Sea Guarding) Stupa. According to local legend, there is a deep hole leading directly from here to the East China Sea. During the Ming Dynasty a monk fell into the hole on his way to pray for rain, and his corpse was found three months later in the sea off Ningde, 50 kilometres away. It is said that afterwards a great number of adventurers went in to explore the hole but they all disappeared. Therefore, the county magistrate ordered that the hole be blocked up, and had a stone stupa built on top of it so as to prevent further mishaps.

Once we got out of the cave, our eyes were met with a dazzling array of rocks and columns in various shapes. According to their shapes, people have given them appropriate names such as the “Monk Bowing to the Moon” and the “Fairy Putting on Clothes”. From the “Southern Gate to Heaven” onward, the path is sandwiched by steep cliffs which form a deep gorge. Tourists on the bottom can see only a strip of blue sky and seven overhanging round rocks stuck between the cliffs, thus this place is called Qixing (Seven Star) Cave.

Outside Seven Star Cave is a huge flat rock, and if one stands on



*"Nine Carps Facing the Sky" is a landmark of Taimu Mountain (by Chapman Lee).*



*Standing on top of Taimu Mountain and looking east, one has a picturesque view of the mountains merging with the sea (by Xie Guanghui).*





*The architectural design of the entrance to Baiyun Temple is quite different from other temples (by Xie Guanghui).*

*The newly restored Baiyun (White Cloud) Temple (by Yang Beizhao)*



*Mushrooms from the mountain are spread out to dry on the roof of Baiyun Temple (by Chapman Lee).*



As we drank tea with her, she told us about how she came to be a nun. She was born in Datong in Shanxi Province and her parents worked in a coal mine. A natural vegetarian, at the age of six her parents sent her to Taimu Mountain, thus her dream to become a nun came true. Now, apart from doing Buddhist services, she studies at a primary school down the mountain.

We went to visit the actual Bat Cave behind the Bat Cave Nunnery, and saw that it was a complicated structure with channels going off in all directions. Jie Ling told us that two years earlier some experts came to examine the cave and found that there was a strong magnetic field inside.

After saying good-bye to Jie Ling, we went to Xiangshan Temple. We had not gone far when we heard someone calling us. We turned around and saw Jie Ling and an elderly nun hurrying over. It was Abbess Shi Yao who, upon her return, heard about our visit and came to greet us. When we complimented her on her strength and good health, she made the Buddhist gesture of greeting and said modestly, "It's all due to Taimu's blessing and the magnetic field of the Bat Cave." Seeing her so lively and vigorous, it was difficult to imagine that she was once so seriously ill.

### **Xiangshan and Baiyun Temples**

The recently constructed Xiangshan (Fragrant Mountain) Temple is the largest temple on Taimu Mountain, and has both a Taimu Hall and a Mahavira Hall. A great number of orchids grow in the surrounding valleys, and when they are in bloom they can be smelled all over the mountain, hence the name of the temple.

In front of the main hall two monks were spreading out tea leaves that they had just picked. Abbot Pin Shan told us that the temple produced more than 500 kilos of dry tea a year and earned a revenue of more than 20,000 yuan.

Behind the temple a long stone staircase of more than 1,500 steps winds up the mountain to Baiyun Temple. We climbed slowly up until we reached a stone slab spanning a deep gorge. Popularly

called the Divine Bridge, to its left is a rocky cliff that soars upward for some 1,000 metres. Its shape resembles nine huge fish ready to jump towards heaven and is the best-known scenic spot on Taimu Mountain, called Nine Carps Facing the Sky Peak.

We continued up the stone stairway and arrived at Baiyun Temple, which, as the first temple ever built on the mountain, has a history of over 1,000 years. We did not stay long at the temple, for we wanted to hurry up to the top before dusk fell. We spent the night at the guesthouse belonging to the TV Transmission Station on top of Moxiao Peak, and looked forward to a fabulous sunrise the next morning.

However, in the early hours of the following day, we were awaked by the sound of wind and rain. We realized that our long-cherished dream of watching the sunrise from Taimu Mountain would not come true. We stayed shut up in our rooms all day, and as evening drew near the wind died down but the temperature fell considerably. We put on all the clothes we had and got ready to go to Mengtai (Dream Terrace). Outside it was cold and we picked our way along the dew-covered path. Suddenly a stone house appeared in the dim light of dusk, but we could see no people. A closer look revealed a number of poems carved on the outside wall of the stone house by scholars from past dynasties.

This mysterious old stone house is used as a retreat for Taoists who wish to live in seclusion. Over time a legend has developed which says that people who pray here will have their dreams and desires come true, hence it is known as Dream Terrace. To test the theory, I made an offering according to Dream Terrace rules. I put some money on the altar, lit three sticks of incense and kowtowed three times while silently stating my wish.

Next we went to see the Yingxian (Deity Receiving) Boat, which is not actually a boat, but a boat-shaped rock. Later on, back at the guesthouse, I fell exhausted onto my bed and was soon fast asleep.

When we woke up the next morning the mountain was covered with mist and clouds. By 9:00, the fog still had not dispersed, and we were forced to return down the mountain. One of our companions said that he had made several trips up the mountain, but had never taken even one photo of the famed sunrise. We came to the conclusion that although Taimu Mountain is beautiful, it reveals only 70 or 80 per cent of its beauty to visitors. If one wants to appreciate all of its charms, a bit of time and patience are definite requirements!

Translated by Gu Weizhou



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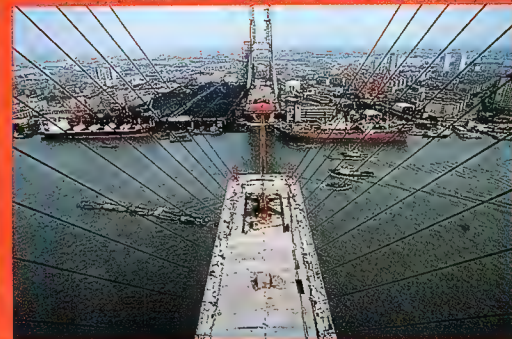
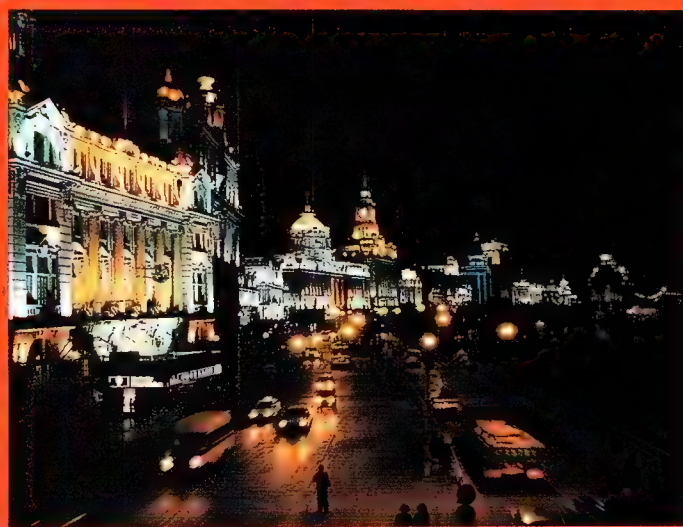
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### 建築系列 ARCHITECTURE





# GUANG YA PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Reforming "Little Emperors" — A Visit to the Guang Ya Primary School

PHOTOS & ARTICLE  
BY SHI BAO XIU

诚实

HONESTY

博爱

勤劳

UNIVERSAL  
LOVE

DILIGENCE

勇敢

BRAVE







3

Three years ago, a school suddenly appeared amongst the rice fields, bamboo groves and village houses not far from Dujiang Weir, a well-known dam on the western fringes of the Sichuan Basin. Farmers from far and near all came to the school's opening ceremony. The style and colour of the school buildings were very unusual and, stranger still, there were foreign girls with green or blue eyes among the teachers on the platform. People were even more astonished as they were told the tuition fee — 10,000 yuan a year!

Last summer when I came to visit this school, every classroom was full of students despite the high tuition fees. I was told that many

parents were still coming to the school to beg its headmaster to accept their children, but they had to leave in disappointment as there were simply no vacancies whatsoever.

The founder and headmaster of the school is Qing Guangya, a man in his 30s who named the school after himself. I asked Guangya his reason for establishing this school. He said that firstly, private schools are both common and popular in Hong Kong, Taiwan and many foreign countries. Secondly, his fa-

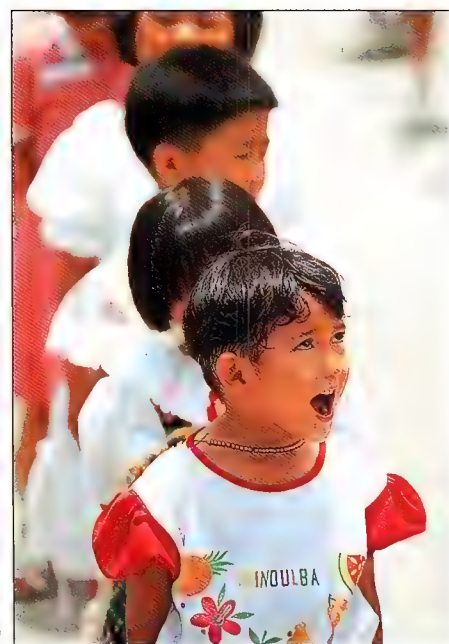


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ther was a graduate from the Whampoa Military Academy and his mother was a primary school teacher, thus their careers had a great influence on him.

Lastly, he was inspired by problems he was having with his own son. Like other parents of his age, he only has one child. Since the boy is an only child, he is treasured greatly by his parents and grandpar-

*The classrooms are clear, bright, spacious and are equipped with modern facilities. Every class has computers, tape recorders, a video recorder, a TV set and a piano (1). ■ The school gate bears both English and Chinese versions of the school motto (2). ■ All the classrooms at the Guang Ya Primary School are shaped like a triangle. Their walls and roofs are painted in three simple but strong colours: red, blue and white, that stand out against the paddy fields and mountains (3). ■ Qing Guangya first worked in a Sichuan Opera Troupe as an apprentice and then went to do video recording in the provincial cultural centre. Later he quit his job, and with his own investment as well as funds collected from the community, he established the Guang Ya Primary School — without receiving a penny from the government (4). ■ Every morning, all the pupils take part in the ceremony to raise the national flag and the school flag (5).*



5



ents. Excessive love has spoiled the child, who has become unsociable and eccentric, as well as wilful and timid. He distrusts anyone except his family members, and lacks self-judgment and the ability to be on his own. This worried Guangya very much, therefore he decided to try an experiment to see if he could change children like his son. At his boarding school, the students are in a completely new living environment away from their families where they can, for the first time, experience what it is like to have brothers and sisters. This is his main reason for setting up the Guang Ya School.

I asked Guangya, "People say that Guang Ya's tuition fees are very high, and that it has perfect teaching facilities and well-trained teachers as well. They say that it is a school for 'nobles'. Do you agree?"

Guangya said, "I agree with the word 'noble', because the children's parents are richer than average Chinese, so they can be regarded as 'noble' materially speaking. But we have to add the word 'reforming' in front of the 'nobles'. I took the trouble to set up this school not to nurture a generation of 'nobles' who only know how to lead a life of pleasure but do not know how to contribute to society.

"Since the '80s people in China have started to become more affluent. The sudden change in their life style makes them feel imbalanced psychologically and they indulge their only children very much. They well remember their own poor childhood, so now that they have money, they want to satisfy their children in every way possible. But they don't realize that their children have been so spoiled that they have become 'little emperors'".

He continued, "On the first day of the term, nearly 100 cars came and parked in front of the school, private cars and taxis that were bringing the children to school. In the beginning these 'little emperors' found it difficult to live collectively, once they were



away from their parents. Some cried because they were missing their families, some threw temper tantrums and others cursed their teachers or fought with their classmates. But after a few months of education on independence and self-discipline, things took a turn for the better.

"We have four words inscribed in both Chinese and English on the school gate: Honesty, Universal Love, Diligence and Bravery. I don't agree with our traditional ethical code, but believe instead that teachers and pupils should be equal, and that we should use the Socratic method of education where students are encouraged to question their teacher. In this way, I hope that the children will form healthy personalities with strong characters, and also be able to do well in school. I often say to the children that if they want to stand out, they must do their best to achieve good marks in their studies and to become independent individuals."

Next I inquired, "May I ask a sensitive question? As the first private primary school in China in the past 40 years, who is this school meant to serve?"

"It's very simple. First, it is for the Chinese people; second, it is for those who can afford such a high tuition fee; third, it is for those who agree with my ideas and principles of education.

"There is one event which I still find





very interesting. In the beginning of the year, a tourist from Hong Kong came to my school after visiting Dujiang Weir. He looked around and showed great interest. He thought that this school was not only quite advanced in teaching methods and had an excellent teaching staff, but that it also had beautiful country surroundings and fresh air. He expressed his willingness to send his child here to undergo 'reform'. He said, however, he had to first discuss this with his wife."

The second day after my arrival at the school happened to be a Saturday. Just as the children were beginning their lunch, a dozen private cars and a few taxis drove up to the gate, all filled with fathers and mothers coming from Chengdu to take their children home. Most of the children go home on the rented school buses, and teachers accompany them to their homes or wait until they are picked up by their parents. Guangya told me that he had explained to the parents time and again that there were six buses, more than enough, to provide transportation for the children. Some parents, however, cannot wait to see their children and drive their private cars or hire taxis to come and pick them up.

It was very quiet on Saturday afternoon, but still there were a dozen or so children playing on the playground. They were from other provinces, Guangya told me, and went home only during winter and summer vacations. Among them, five were orphans from the countryside who did not have to pay any tuition fees. "This is not a charity," Guangya said, "but a comparative experiment. I want to see whether children from rich families and from poor families can live in a harmonious atmosphere under the special educational system of the Guang Ya School." Just before I left the school, I was told that Qing Guangya was going to visit the United States with three of his best pupils during the summer vacation.

Translated by Xu Mingqiang

This mother said, "We are not able to make him disciplined at home, so we brought him somewhere that could. Though it costs me some 10,000 yuan, it's worth it. Once he becomes a useful person, we will actually save money." (1) The school employs six young English teachers from the United States, who get along very well with their pupils (2). To let the children communicate with each other and change their unsociable characters, the school's broadcasting-room started a new programme of "choosing songs for your friend" during class breaks (3). Guided by a professor of nutrition, the school canteen serves ordinary but nutritious food. The school asks the pupils to "eat a full meal at breakfast, eat well at lunch and eat less at supper". At first, these "little emperors" all cried of hunger pangs in the evening and their parents also complained about this. But within a month all the children had put on weight, and their parents then started to trust the school (4). The children all take care of themselves, from the time they get up in the morning till they go to bed at night. A dozen children share a room, all sleeping on hard-board bunk beds. If any parent breaks the school regulation and sends special food to his/her child, the food must be shared equally with the child's roommates. There are also two nurses in each unit to take care of the children's special needs (5).





PHOTOGRAPHER'S  
GALLERY

# Ode to the Northwest Plateau

PHOTOGRAPHER: MA ZHONGYUAN  
TEXT BY TIAN FU

**I**n Northwest China there are no waterside villages as in southern China, nor fertile land as in the Central Plains, however the solitude and vastness of this region invest it with an indescribable charm.

Presented here are only a few glimpses into the photographer's work, each one representative of the grandeur and beauty of the plateau.



## *An Autumn Scene on the Plateau*

This aerial photo of harvest time on the loess plateau offers a unique view of the dark, fallow fields dotted with stacks of wheat. From this angle the photographer has managed to create an image of both contrast and harmony, with the swirling geometric patterns lending a strong sense of movement.








## *The Grasslands of Southern Gansu*

The dark green mountains set against the azure sky and the verdant grassland dotted with grazing white sheep represent the dominant colours of China's northwest plateau. Simplicity and majesty are the two words that best describe the landscapes of this region.



# Winter in Altay

The stretch of snow-covered land in this picture is set off by the dense woods at the top and the crisscrossing fences below. The straight, long tracks carved out by sleds guide one's line of vision off into infinity. The horse-drawn sled stands out in high relief and lends a sense of vitality to the severely cold winter scene. 





# THE NEXT WINNER MIGHT BE YOU!

How would you like to win \$8,888 worth of Free Travel Coupons and wander off on a China holiday with your friends at absolutely no cost at all? Just subscribe, or recommend a friend to subscribe, to China Tourism magazine, and you just might be one of the **three** remaining winners.

## The Winners of the \$8,888 Free Travel Lucky Draw

January

Mr. Tsui Chi Ming  
ID #D221252 (0)



Mr. Tsui (right) receives his prize from Mr. Johnny Choi of Grand Tours.

January's winner, Mr. Tsui, plans to use his \$8,888 to take a tour of Beijing with his family. He plans to go this autumn, when the capital is at its most comfortable and colourful.

April

The winner could be you!

February

Mr. Ma Kai Ming  
ID# C358758(2)



As Mr. Ma was away on a business trip, his wife (left) accepted the prize for him from Miss Catherine Lee of China Tourism magazine.

Mrs. Ma was overwhelmed with joy by this nice surprise. She is looking forward to a romantic Christmas holiday with Mr. Ma in Qingdao, perhaps the most "European" of Chinese cities.

May

The winner could be you!

March

Mr. Kwok See Kwan  
ID# A438445 (0)

June

The winner could be you !  
Act now!

Winners will be informed of the procedure for how to redeem their prizes. For details on the lucky draw, please read the pamphlet enclosed.

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# A Peculiar Collection — A Visit to Tao Rong's Wine and Liquor Museum

PHOTOS BY TANG ZAIQING TEXT BY XU ZHANQING

Most collectors of precious objects choose non-consumable items for their collections, such as art, or books, or stamps. A man named Tao Rong, however, has the unusual hobby of collecting bottles of fine wines and liquors — not for drinking but for their sheer aesthetic value.

In a workshop in the Hongqiao Economic and Technical Development Zone in Shanghai, I called on this collector of fine wines, a technician in his late fifties at the Shanghai Textile Fittings Factory. His hobby dates back to more than 30 years ago, when a close friend gave him two bottles of famous wines as a present: a Xifeng White Spirit brewed in the traditional Chinese way, and a bottle of French Rémy Martin cognac. The two bottles were so beautiful and made so perfect a pair that he could not bear to take a single sip. It was this experience that began his keen interest in collecting famous liquors from around the world.

Since that time, Mr. Tao has been wholly devoted to collecting fine wines and spirits, sometimes even going as far as Inner Mongolia to find a particular variety. Now he has a collection of 550 bottles that include over 400 different kinds of wines made in 30 provinces and regions in China, as well as wine and liquor from Britain, France and Japan. In 1988, he chose some samples from his collection for an exhibition at the Tianshan Cultural Night Market. The exhibition was an overwhelming success and his selection was admired by tens of thousands of







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visitors. Later, he started up an exhibition hall in his home, which is now open to visitors all year round.

Mr. Tao's exhibition hall is a reception room of about 20 square metres, with exquisite cabinets lining all four walls. Inside the cabinets is a superb collection of famous wines and liquors, all in beautiful bottles. The size of these bottles varies from as large as a ceramic jug to as small as one's palm. They also vary in shape. Some of the more peculiar bottles are olive-shaped or gourd-shaped. Other bottles are made in the shape of the God of Longevity, Guan Yin or the Monkey King. The spirits in these exquisite bottles assume a great variety of colours — some are the colour of claret, others are almost transparent. There are also antique ceramic bottles which are painted with scenery or figures, and are works of art in themselves. Included in Mr. Tao's collection are all of China's 18 best State-authorized wines.

Some of his wines come in a series, for example the Maotai Wine series has four sizes ranging from 50 to 500ml. The twelve kinds of the Hongloulou Wine series are named after the Twelve Beauties (the twelve leading female characters in the novel *A Dream of Red Mansions*). The most peculiar wine is the Lushan One Drop Spring Wine, whose bottle is only six centimetres in height and contains just dozens of milliliters of wine. And although his collection of foreign spirits is smaller than his domestic selection, some are very precious. For example, the Rémy Martin which aroused Mr. Tao's



interest over 30 years ago had changed hands several times before it came to him, and has a history dating back to a century ago.

Alcohol is a product of human civilization. Regardless of national boundaries, making spirits is a skill that exists in nearly every society. Through collecting liquor and fine wines one can learn something about other cultures, while at the same time enjoy and appreciate the artistry that goes into making each and every bottle.

Translated by Chen Jiaji

Part of Tao's collection (1) ■ Collector Tao Rong and his wife (2) ■ Taiwan Brandy, a gift from one of his relatives (3) ■ This wine called "Xi Han Gu Jiu" (Old wine from the Western Han Dynasty) is an imitation of an object unearthed from Mawangdui in Hunan (4). ■ Maotai liquor from Guizhou (5) ■ This bottle of Beefeater's distilled dry gin was given to Tao by the British consul in Shanghai in 1989 (6). ■ A bottle of Finnish Vodka given to Tao as a present in 1989 by a teacher at the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade (7) ■ Bottles of VSOP Rémy Martin manufactured in 1959 and 1988 (8) ■ Dongjiu wine from Guizhou (9) ■ Gujing Tribute Wine from Anhui (10) ■ Wuliangye hard liquor from Sichuan (11) ■ Yanghe hard liquor from Jiangsu's Yanghe Town (12) ■ These 12 wine bottles each bear the name of one of the 12 women in the classic novel A Dream of Red Mansions (13). ■ Another part of Tao's collection (14) ■ Wine stored in gourd-shaped bottles (15) ■ Guilin's famous wine called "San Hua Chiew" (16) ■ This wine comes in bottles made to resemble the figures of monk Xuan Zang (Tripitaka) and his three disciples (17). ■ Du Kang wine from Henan (18)



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THINGS  
CHINESE

# Weifang's Kites

Flying with the Culture of the State of Lu

PHOTOS BY LIU FUJU TEXT BY HUA NIAN





It is said that the first kite to rise up into the sky was created by Mo Zhai of the State of Lu over 2,000 years ago. Weifang, in Shandong Province, once located within the State of Lu, is known as "The Land of Kites". I do not know if this event actually has anything to do with the Mo family, but I am certain that the kites of Weifang have something to do with the culture of the State of Lu.

Kites with the images of heroes, fairies, flowers, birds, insects and fish are all imbued with the honest and animated character of the ancient people of Lu. Exaggerated in form, though they may be, they certainly are gaudy and eye-catching in colour. The technical essence of Weifang's wood-block print New Year pictures can clearly be seen in these kites, which not only fly well but also have their own particular grace. They can, therefore, be used as decorative wall hangings, revealing the style of the State of Lu.





# The Magical Mountain Scenery of Zhejiang

Although Zhejiang is one of the smallest provinces in China, it is packed with scenic spots and interesting towns. The ancient capital of Hangzhou, lovely Shaoxing — the Venice of the East — and the historical cities of Ningbo and Wenzhou are all excellent places to start one's tour of the province. Besides the ancient cities and towns, however, Zhejiang also boasts some wonderful mountain scenery.

For travellers with a little extra time, visiting one or more of these picturesque mountains will undoubtedly enhance one's trip to Zhejiang, as well as give one a much better understanding of why the scenery in this province has long been a favourite of poets, scholars and artists. Below we take a look at just a few of the many mountains that make up the terrain of Zhejiang.

## Tiantai Mountain

Tiantai Mountain is just three kilometres from the county town of Tiantai, located approximately in the centre of the coastal region of Zhejiang. To reach Tiantai County, one can either start out in Hangzhou, Ningbo or Jinhua and take a direct tourist coach.

Tiantai Mountain is considered a sacred place for both Buddhists and Taoists, and has been a Buddhist pilgrimage site since as long ago as the Eastern Jin Dynasty (317-420). This is partly because it was here that the Tiantai Sect of Buddhism was founded by a monk called Zhi Yi (popularly known as Zhizhe), who lived during the sixth century. The Tiantai Sect is particularly strong in Japan and Korea, therefore Japanese Buddhists hold Tiantai Mountain in special regard. Due to its religious significance, most of the sights on Tiantai consist of monasteries, pagodas and shrines, although the many waterfalls, mountain trails and creeks also make it an ideal place for hiking.

The largest and most impressive structure here is Guoqing Monastery, located at the foot of the mountain. Originally built during the Sui Dynasty (581-618), rebuilt in the Qing (1644-1911) and most recently

renovated in 1973, the monastery consists of over 600 rooms and occupies an area of nearly 20,000 square metres. A nine-storey pagoda also built in the Sui Dynasty stands outside the monastery. The pagoda is 60 metres high and was reportedly constructed of thousands of hollow bricks, with those at the top engraved with three Buddha images. Just below the Sui pagoda are seven smaller pagodas. Other sites here include a museum of Buddhist artefacts, caverns, waterfalls, bridges and many other places of interest.

## Northern and Southern Yandang Mountains

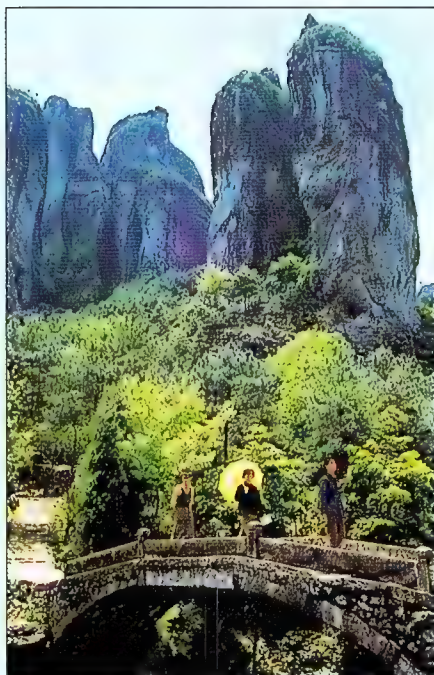
The Yandang Mountain Range is situated in the far south of Zhejiang Province and extends from the border with Fujian up the coast and past the city of Wenzhou.

In this mountain range there are two separate mountains that one can visit — the Northern Yandang and the Southern Yandang.

Northern Yandang Mountain is located at the northernmost end of the range and is accessible from either Hangzhou, Wenzhou or the smaller city of Wenling on the coast. The mountain is about 30 kilometres long and its highest peak, called Baigangjian, is some 1,150 metres high. As this region is rich in limestone, the topography is full of fantastically shaped hills and peaks. In addition, there are a great many other scenic sights worth visiting. One geographer counted a total of 102 peaks, 64 springs, 46 caves, 26 oddly-shaped rocks, 18 temples, 18 pools, 18 waterfalls, 10 springs, eight bridges, eight streams, eight gates and two lakes —







enough to keep one busy for at least a day or two!

Southern Yandang Mountain is, naturally, located at the southern end of the range, near the county seat of Wencheng which is easily accessible from Rui'an. Being part of the same mountain range, Southern Yandang Mountain bears many of the same characteristics as its northern sister, but also has a number of historical buildings as well. The cobblestone path leading up the mountain takes you first to Evening Pavilion, from where one has an excellent view of the surroundings. Nearby is a ferry which will take you across a stream to two of the most well-known sights here: Eastern Cave Hill and Western Cave Hill. As the names suggest, there are a large number of caves hidden deep in these hills, and strangely shaped caves are in fact a hallmark of this particular mountain.

From here it is a short walk to the Hill Pavilion and a 100-metre-tall cliff, more strange rocks and then Fairy Cave, inside of which is an ancient Taoist temple. Taoist monks still live here and are very hospitable to visitors. Other sites on the mountain include the remains of the Huiwen Academy, built in the Ming Dynasty by the famed scholar Zhu Xi, and the Sacred Cloud Temple. Like the temple inside Fairy Cave, the Sacred Cloud Temple was also constructed inside a cave and consists of more than 20 rooms, where resident monks

live and study. The southern mountain is clearly quite different from the northern one in what it has to offer the visitor, but both are equally enjoyable and beautiful.

### Mogan Mountain

People visiting Hangzhou or Shanghai during the upcoming summer months might want to consider a trip to nearby Mogan Mountain, a cool and pleasant place where one can go to escape the heat of the city. Long known as a summer resort, tourist facilities have been well-developed here for many years, and include Western-style hotels, villas, tennis courts and swimming pools. Located about 60 kilometres north of Hangzhou, buses will take you from there to Mogan Mountain in around two hours.



The mountains here rise to a height of under 700 metres and are dotted with lush bamboo groves and clear springs. In the past, the only way to reach the top of the mountain was by a tortuous stone path that started out in Yucun Village, and for those who prefer to hike, this option is still available. In addition, now there is also a road up the mountain and buses can take visitors to Yinshanjie Town in just an hour or so. The town is the base from which one can explore the many sights on the mountain, and the villas and hotels are also located here.

A tour of Mogan Mountain can be done in one or several days. Scenic spots include pavilions, waterfalls, bamboo groves, caves, parks, terraces and pools. The first stop on most visitors' itineraries is Sword Pool, said to be the place where a husband-and-wife team of swordsmiths who lived during the Spring and Autumn Pe-

riod (770-476 B.C.) smelted two iron swords for the king. Further on is Guanpu Bridge, which spans a gorge and overlooks a waterfall. Although Mogan Mountain is best known as a summer resort, the scenery is attractive at any time of year.

### Mount Xiandu

This small but scenic mountain is located almost in the centre of Zhejiang Province, between the cities of Jinhua and Lishui in Jinyun County. The five major tourist spots here include the 160-metre-high Dinghu Peak, a place called Iron City, Niweng Cave, the Small Red Cliff and the Mother-and-Daughter-in-Law Crag.



Although the elevation of Dinghu Peak is not particularly amazing, what makes it special is a natural lake right on top of the peak, which is surrounded by pine trees. To get a panoramic view of this peak and other sights in the area, one can climb up Buxu Hill. There is also a cave near here called Xianshui Cave, where there is a spring-fed pool that never runs dry.

Iron City is actually a deep gorge flanked by two cliffs the colour of rust, thus the name. Niweng Cave is where an ancient hermit once lived in seclusion, and is a famed spot on the mountain for its wonderful view of the surrounding scenery. Besides the many cliffs and crags, one can also visit pavilions, terraces and caves which are dotted here and there. In the past, tourists had to be carried up the mountain in sedan chairs, but now buses go up the mountain many times a day. Most of the sights on Xiandu can be seen in a day or two.





# A Tour of the Ancient Towns Around Taihu Lake



Taihu Lake, on the border of Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces, has been celebrated for centuries as one of the region's most beautiful scenic spots, and is still considered a "must" for visitors to Shanghai and Hangzhou. Apart from the lake itself, however, the area around the lake is a treasure trove of ancient towns, waterways, bridges and old-style Chinese architecture.

Starting out in either Huzhou or the town of Wuzhen (see our main article for details on this place), one can do a fascinating tour of the towns and villages on the eastern side of the lake, ending one's trip with a visit to the ancient city of Suzhou. As most of the towns have rivers, creeks or streams flowing through them, travelling by boat is a common means of transport and is a convenient, enjoyable way to experience life around Taihu Lake.

If one departs Wuzhen and heads northwest by boat for 20 kilometres, one will come to the town of Nanxun, known for

its culturally important ancient buildings. Two of these are Jiaye Hall, which now serves as a library, and Xiaolian (Small Lotus) Villa, built by a rich merchant in the Qing Dynasty and modelled after Lianhua (Lotus) Villa in Hangzhou. Another important landmark in Nanxun is Baijianlou Tower, which stands on the banks of the Baijianlou River that runs through the town.

Just seven kilometres north of Nanxun is Zhenze. One of the best scenic attractions here is Ciyunsi, sometimes called Zhenze Pagoda, from where one can get a glimpse of Taihu Lake in the distance. Moving eastward you will come to Shengze, famed as being an important silk-producing town. Despite the small size and fairly remote location of Shengze, it is home to one of the largest silk markets in all of China. There is a scenic spot here called Bailanzhou, which has an excellent view of the surrounding area.

Travelling north along the border of Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces one will pass through the town of Lili, and then just inside the border delineating the municipality of Shanghai, one can visit the town of Jinze. Located south of Lake Dianshan, Jinze is known for its large number of bridges. From here one can tour Dianshan Lake, then go northwest to Zhouzhuang, a 900-year-old town in Jiangsu Province. Too small to be shown on standard maps, Zhouzhuang is surrounded by five lakes — Dianshan, Sandang, Baixian, Chenghu and Nanhu — therefore the main means of transport here is boat. Because of its relative inaccessibility, the town has retained much of its old-style charm and there are still a large number of well-preserved ancient buildings. Regular passenger ships run from here to the town of Tongli and to Wujiang County, and one can also get to Kunshan County and Qingpu County in Shanghai by going first by boat to a place called Shangta, then taking a bus.

Moving further north from Zhouzhuang one will come to Tongli, a town with 15 streams and therefore many bridges. Over 20 of these were built in the Song Dynasty (960-1279), with the oldest dating back to 700 years ago. There are also a number of houses and gardens that once belonged to Ming and Qing-dynasty officials. The most impressive of these structures are Tuisi Garden, Gengle Hall and Huancui Villa. Another lovely town with many streams and bridges is Chengmao, located east of Tongli. In the southern part of Chengmao on the shores of picturesque Lake Wubao is Wenxing Pavilion, a well-known tourist site.

Travelling north from Chengmao one will come to Qianteng, a quiet and tranquil town with cobblestone streets. On a mountain there named Shaoqing one can see relics dating back to the Neolithic Era, as this is one of the many archaeological sites in the Lake Taihu area. West of Qianteng is Luzhi, where one can visit a number of old temples and see many ancient streets and stone bridges. The most celebrated of these is the Song-dynasty Nanmei Bridge, as each stone slab is elaborately carved in bas-relief. The town is often described as being a place where "one crosses two bridges every three steps" and "boats berth at the door of every house". From here, it is only 20 kilometres west to Suzhou, which one can easily reach by public bus in about one hour.





### More Reforms on Hainan

Hainan Province has now decided to extend to local business people the same privileges as given foreign traders. Now any local company wanting to engage in import or export, including State-run enterprises, will be allowed to trade freely in order to further liberalize trading practices on the island. In addition, foreign investors will be able to be shareholders in local import and export companies, and will also be allowed to set up large retail shops. This decision was made to comply with the requirement set by GATT (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) that China extend foreign trading rights to domestic enterprises.

### Beijing to Host Building Materials Exhibit

The '94 International Building Technology and Materials Exhibition will be held from September 21-25, 1994 at the Beijing International Convention Center, located on 8 Beichengdong Road in Beijing's Chaoyang District. Organized by the China National New Building Materials I/E Corporation attached to the Beijing Academy of Social Sciences, exhibits will cover areas such as building technology and materials, urban residences, architectural design, construction and engineering equipment and more. The size of a stand at the exhibit is three square metres and costs US\$3,000, although non-standard sizes may be arranged with the organizer. For information or reservations, contact either Mr. Zhang Xian or Mr. Zhang Xinsheng on 86-1-8425849 or fax 86-1-8425869.

### Free Port Zone Planned for Qingdao

The coastal city of Qingdao in Shandong Province, located on the tip of Jiaozhou Bay, will soon be setting up a free port zone in that bay. The new zone will incorporate all of Qingdao's current development zones, the Huangdao Island Free Trade Zone and the Xuejiadao Island Tourist Area. The heart of the development will take place at Qianwan Port, which can currently handle 1.7 million tons per year. Plans include making the port an international facility with 60 berths and an annual handling capacity of 100 million tons within 50 years. In addition, there will be a 120-square-kilometre free trade zone development on Huangdao Island.

### Sichuan Highway Rights to Be Sold

Foreign investors will soon be able to buy highway administration rights to a 115-kilometre-long section of a new highway connecting the two major cities of Chengdu and Chongqing in Sichuan Province. People who buy rights to this section, known as the Chongqing section, will be allowed to develop the land along the road and foreign investors will be contracted to run the highway for a certain period of time. The Chongqing section is expected to open to traffic this October and has taken US\$11.5 million and three years to build.

### Tianjin Hopes to Regain Lead in Industry

The northern coastal city of Tianjin is hoping to regain its lead as a major industrial centre in China by using foreign funds to upgrade one third of its old enterprises within the next eight years. Plans include turning 120 State-run factories into joint ventures and putting into operation over 70 foreign-funded projects this year alone. So far, 18 already upgraded enterprises have total output values of US\$11.5 million, and earnings from industrial joint ventures make up 48 per cent of total receipts. Last year the city put some US\$600 million into 197 foreign-funded projects.

### 201 Open Ports in China

At present there are 201 ports in China that are open to the outside world, a marked increase over the 51 ports that were open when the country first began its policy of economic reforms. Of the 201 ports, 22 were opened just last year and include 12 seaports, seven airports and three land ports. In comparison to a decade ago when most open ports were located in border or coastal regions, in recent years more ports have been opened in inland regions.

### Part of Expressway Open for Bidding

Bidding opened in March of this year for international tenders on the construction of one section of the new Beijing-Shenzhen Expressway. This section runs from Shijiazhuang in Hebei to the city of Anyang just over the border in Henan Province, and is 216 kilometres long. The World Bank has already contributed US\$240 million towards the construction of that section, the largest loan China has ever received from that body. So far the 280-kilometre stretch from Beijing to Shijiazhuang has been opened to traffic, and the rest of the highway from Anyang to Shenzhen will be funded by the provinces that the road will pass through.

### Foreign Firms Can Bid on Guangzhou Subway

Overseas firms are invited to bid for the construction of the new subway now being built in the city of Guangzhou in Guangdong Province. Bidding is being accepted for eight equipment systems worth a total of US\$200 million, including railway electrical appliances, lifts, phones and ticket machines. So far a number of major companies from Germany, Britain, the US and Hong Kong have signed contracts for work on the subway, and the French transport giant Sofretu will be supervising and managing the project. The winners of the bidding for the eight equipment systems will be announced by the middle of this year.

### Sciencetech Town Planned for Guangzhou

A new science and technology town is now being constructed in Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong Province. Located just five kilometres from Huangpu Port and 18 kilometres from Baiyun International Airport, Guangzhou Sciencetech Town will cost some US\$10 million to build. To help in the construction of the town, officials are hoping foreign investment will continue to pour in, and overseas investors are invited to establish various types of co-operative ventures, solely foreign-funded ventures and shareholding companies. The Guangzhou Sciencetech Town will consist of six industrial districts devoted to electronic information, optical machinery, bioengineering, medical science, new materials and new energy sources.

### Bonded Warehouse in Liaoning

The first bonded warehouse in western Liaoning Province has opened for business at Jinzhou Port near the city of Dalian on the Liaoning Peninsula. Located about 100 metres from the wharf and occupying an area of 3,200 square metres, this is only the first of two phases planned for the project. The second phase will be jointly handled with foreign companies and will include building a 3,000-square-metre closed warehouse and a 750,000-square-metre bonded yard.

### Two Hotels Get Voicemail

Beijing's China World Hotel and Traders Hotel are the first two hotels in that city to have Voicemail systems installed in every room. Since February of this year, guests at these hotels have been able to use the Voicemail system to receive and leave messages, a great help for people doing business in the city.



### Train Schedules Shanghai — Hangzhou — Ningbo

369 O.	367 O.	365 O.	363 O.	361 O.	353 O.	351 O.	Train Station	No.	352 O.	354 O.	362 O.	364 O.	366 O.	368 O.	370 O.
			13:23	02:55		08:09	Shanghai		22:33		10:59	21:53			
			—	—	21:10	—	Shanghai West		—	17:01	—	—			
			15:34	05:34	23:16	10:25	Jiaxing		20:28	14:55	08:56	19:50			
			16:06	06:06	—	10:57	Haining		—	14:18	08:09	19:15			
17:40	08:30	07:04	17:20	07:21	00:41	12:21	Hangzhou		19:04	12:50	06:38	17:40	11:40	16:41	21:31
18:16	09:08	07:46			01:20	12:59	Xiaoshan		18:12	11:55			10:59	15:56	20:45
19:10	10:03	08:28			02:07	13:42	Shaoxing		17:21	11:16			09:37	15:06	20:00
20:37	11:15	10:07			03:33	14:57	Yuyao		15:46	09:30			08:20	13:47	18:40
21:50	12:20	11:08			04:42	16:16	Ningbo		14:45	08:25			07:10	12:50	17:30

O. — Ordinary passenger train

### Flights to and from Ningbo

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing — Ningbo	5	15:20	17:10	GW674
	6	11:50	13:50	GW661
	6	15:25	17:45	GP7157
	7	14:10	16:15	GP7163
	1 3	15:50	18:10	GP7155
	1 4	16:25	18:35	CA1543
	2 4	14:05	16:15	GP7163
	4 7	13:15	15:35	SZ4524
	2 3 5 6 7	15:40	17:50	CA1541
Ningbo — Beijing	5	12:10	14:05	GW673
	6	14:30	16:35	GW662
	6	18:30	20:50	GP7158
	7	17:10	19:30	GP7164
	1 3	19:00	21:40	GP7156
	1 4	19:25	21:50	CA1544
	2 4	17:10	19:25	GP7164
	4 7	10:00	12:05	SZ4523
	2 3 5 6 7	18:30	20:35	CA1542
Fuzhou — Ningbo	1 3 7	11:50 14:10	13:25 15:30	FJ511 MU5594
Ningbo — Fuzhou	1 3 7	13:55 12:00	15:25 13:20	FJ512 MU5593
Guangzhou — Ningbo	4	11:00	13:10	GP7357
	1 3 2 4 7	11:40 07:45	13:50 09:35	MU5376 CZ3517
Ningbo — Guangzhou	4	14:00	16:10	GP7358
	1 3 2 4 7	14:50 10:30	16:50 12:20	MU5375 CZ3518
Shanghai — Ningbo	1 3 5 6 7	06:50	07:30	MU5503
Ningbo — Shanghai	1 3 5 6 7	14:15	14:55	MU5504
Shenzhen — Ningbo	1	17:50	19:40	CZ3551
	2	16:45	18:40	CJ6336
	3	15:20	17:15	CJ6360
	1 4 2 6	15:35 10:25	17:30 12:15	CJ6316 SF382
Ningbo — Shenzhen	1	20:20	22:20	CJ3552
	2	13:50	15:55	CJ6335
	3	12:25	14:30	CJ6359
	1 4 2 6	12:40 13:35	14:45 15:35	CJ6315 SF381
Hong Kong — Ningbo	5 7	17:55	20:00	KA306
	1 2 3 5 6 7	11:10	13:20	MU512
Ningbo — Hong Kong	5 7	21:15	23:30	KA307
	1 2 3 5 6 7	08:00	10:10	MU511

(Valid Spring 1994)

### Train Schedules Beijing — Shanghai — Hangzhou — Fuzhou

119 F.T.	45 Exp.	Train Station	No.	46 Exp.	120 F.T.
17:14	10:40	Beijing		05:45	11:44
19:31	12:40	Tianjin West		04:04	09:52
22:54	—	Dezhou		—	06:20
01:04	17:29	Jinan South		23:27	04:21
06:04	21:52	Xuzhou		19:11	23:25
08:48	00:20	Bengbu		16:47	20:40
12:27	03:01	Nanjing		14:47	17:45
13:25	—	Zhenjiang		—	16:36
15:11	05:33	Wuxi		11:47	14:55
15:50	—	Suzhou		—	14:16
17:05	07:29	Shanghai West		10:10	13:01
20:20	—	Hangzhou		—	09:25
	10:24	Hangzhou East		06:45	
		Yingtian		21:44	
	05:14	Fuzhou		12:14	

Exp.— Express

F.T. — Fast through passenger train

### Train Schedules Shanghai/Hangzhou — Guangzhou

209 F.T.	49 Exp.	Train Station	No.	50 Exp.	210 F.T.
09:20	10:00	Shanghai		20:30	
—	—	Hangzhou		—	20:21
—	13:16	Hangzhou East		17:28	—
13:30	16:36	Jinhua		14:07	15:35
18:18	20:11	Shangyao		10:10	11:12
20:55	22:12	Yingtian		08:07	08:33
23:11	00:10	Xiangtang West		06:05	05:30
04:55	04:31	Pingxiang		01:34	00:11
07:14	06:20	Zhuzhou		23:49	22:16
09:32	08:25	Hengyang		21:40	19:55
13:31	12:03	Pingshi		18:01	15:57
15:10	13:36	Shaoguan		16:29	14:20
18:55	16:46	Guangzhou		13:06	10:20



### Flights to and from Wenzhou

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing — Wenzhou	1	14:00	16:20	WH2514
	3	10:35	13:00	GW663
	5	16:45	18:55	CA1557
	6	16:35	19:05	CJ6583
	7	14:05	16:20	CA1561
	1 4	09:50	12:10	MU5128
	3 7	16:05	18:35	CJ6585
	2 4 6	16:00	18:20	CA1539
	2 4 7	07:25	09:45	GP7165
Wenzhou — Beijing	1	10:40	13:00	WH2513
	3	13:50	16:30	GW664
	5	19:30	21:40	CA1558
	6	13:10	15:35	CJ6584
	7	17:00	19:20	CA1562
	1 4	13:00	15:25	MU5127
	3 7	12:20	14:45	CJ6586
	2 4 6	19:00	21:10	CA1540
	2 4 7	10:35	13:00	GP7166
Fuzhou — Wenzhou	1 4	11:40	12:50	MU5916
	1 3 5	08:30	09:25	FJ519
Wenzhou — Fuzhou	1 4	09:50	11:00	MU5915
	1 3 5	10:00	10:50	FJ520
Hangzhou — Wenzhou	2 6	10:45	12:15	MU5597
	1 2 4 5 7	07:50	09:00	MU5909
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	17:10	18:20	MU5907
Wenzhou — Hangzhou	1 4	13:30	14:40	MU5910
	2 6	13:00	14:10	MU5598
	2 5 7	14:50	16:00	MU5924
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	19:00	20:10	MU5908
Guangzhou — Wenzhou	2	11:30	13:00	WH2351
	4	13:50	15:25	WH2540
	1 4	10:10	11:40	GW607
	5 7	13:55	15:35	CZ3527
	1 4 6	11:50	13:40	MU5340
Wenzhou — Guangzhou	2	13:50	15:35	WH2352
	4	11:15	13:00	WH2539
	1 4	12:30	14:20	CW608
	5 7	16:30	18:10	CZ3528
	1 4 6	14:30	16:30	MU5339
Ningbo — Wenzhou	3 7	16:10	17:10	MU5589
Wenzhou — Ningbo	3 7	10:05	11:05	MU5590
Shanghai — Wenzhou	4 7	16:45	17:40	SF517
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	07:30	08:25	MU5579
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	18:10	19:10	MU5591
Wenzhou — Shanghai	4 7	18:55	19:50	SF518
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	09:05	10:00	MU5580
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	20:10	21:10	MU5592
Shenzhen — Wenzhou	4	12:00	14:00	GP7355
	1 4	17:05	18:45	CZ3567
	1 5	13:50	15:25	CJ6330
	2 7	07:50	09:50	ZH821
Wenzhou — Shenzhen	4	14:40	16:40	GP7356
	1 4	19:25	21:05	CZ3568
	1 5	11:15	13:00	CJ6329
	2 7	10:40	12:40	ZH822

(Valid Spring 1994)

### Flights to and from Hangzhou

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing — Hangzhou	5	10:45	12:35	MU5958
	1 5	11:00	12:50	SF152
	4 7	12:45	14:35	MU5954
	1 3 6	09:00	11:20	GP7151
	2 4 6	14:10	15:55	CA1535
	1 2 3 6	13:30	15:20	MU5956
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:20	10:05	CA1509
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	11:35	13:30	MU5146
Hangzhou — Beijing	5	08:05	09:50	MU5957
	1 2	10:40	12:30	MU5951
	1 5	15:55	17:45	SF151
	3 6	10:30	12:20	MU5955
	4 7	10:05	11:55	MU5953
	1 3 6	12:25	14:55	GP7152
	2 4 6	16:45	21:55	CA1335
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	10:55	12:40	CA1510
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	14:25	16:20	MU5145
Fuzhou — Hangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	15:00	16:20	MU5904
Hangzhou — Fuzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	12:55	14:20	MU5903
Guangzhou — Hangzhou	4	09:40	11:20	3Q4585
	1 4	18:50	20:25	MU5962
	2 6	11:10	12:50	CZ3521
	1 3 5	10:50	12:30	SF352
	1 3 5 7	10:55	12:55	GP7353
	2 3 5 6 7	20:10	21:50	MU5974
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	18:10	19:50	MU5360
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	17:35	19:15	CZ3501
Hangzhou — Guangzhou	4	12:10	13:40	3Q4586
	1 4	09:25	11:15	MU5961
	2 6	13:40	15:20	CZ3522
	1 3 5 7	13:45	15:50	GP7354
	2 3 5 6 7	16:40	18:30	MU5973
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	15:10	17:10	MU5359
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	20:15	21:55	CZ3502
Hong Kong — Hangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	12:30	14:30	MU504
Hangzhou — Hong Kong	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	09:20	11:30	MU503
Shanghai — Hangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	07:45	08:20	MU5513
Hangzhou — Shanghai	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	20:25	21:00	MU5514
Shenzhen — Hangzhou	1 6	08:10	10:10	ZH815
	2 4 5 7	13:50	15:40	CZ3555
Hangzhou — Shenzhen	1 6	11:00	13:00	ZH816
	2 4 5 7	16:30	18:30	CZ3556

(Valid Spring 1994)

### Average Climatic Conditions in Zhejiang and Fujian Provinces

			Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Zhejiang	Hangzhou	Temperature (°C)	3.8	5.1	9.3	15.4	20.2	24.3	28.6	28.0	23.3	17.7	12.1	6.3
		Rainfall (mm)	62.2	88.7	114.1	130.4	179.9	196.2	126.5	136.5	177.6	77.9	54.7	54.0
	Ningbo	Temperature (°C)	4.2	5.4	9.2	14.9	19.5	23.7	28.1	27.7	23.8	18.1	12.6	7.0
		Rainfall (mm)	58.8	79.1	97.9	116.5	153.4	190.8	129.3	142.9	207.6	84.7	59.9	53.9
Fujian	Fuzhou	Temperature (°C)	10.5	10.7	13.4	18.2	22.1	25.5	28.8	28.2	26.0	21.7	17.5	13.1
		Rainfall (mm)	49.8	76.3	120.0	149.7	207.5	230.2	112.0	160.5	131.4	41.5	33.1	31.6





## Major Hotels in Zhejiang and Fujian Provinces

### Hangzhou, Zhejiang

#### Dragon Hotel

Shuguang Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310007

Tel: 5154488 Telex: 351048 DRAGN CN

Fax: 5158090

GM: Albert Poon

Opened 21 April 1988

558 rooms and 6 suites Rates: Standard US\$110, suite US\$220

Located 14 km from airport, 7 km from railway station  
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥ 40; railway station, Rmb ¥ 15

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet room, business centre, conference room, karaoke, disco, ballroom, swimming pool, billiard room, tennis courts, beauty salon, shopping arcade, massage, sauna, babysitting service, bicycle rental

#### Friendship Hotel Hangzhou



53 Pinghai Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310006

Tel: (0571) 777888 Telex: 35068 FRISH CN

Fax: (0571) 773842

Opened 6 October 1986

224 rooms and suites Rates: Single US\$63/72, double US\$70/80, suite US\$150/300

Located in the city centre, 14 km from airport, 3 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese, Japanese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, disco, art gallery, beauty salon, massage, multi-function room, shopping arcade, karaoke, bar

#### Hangzhou International Mansion

157 Tiychang Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310006

Tel: 556224, 555724 Telex: 35029 BZIB CN

Fax: 574201

GM: Xia Yucheng

296 rooms and suites

Located 12 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, exhibition hall, bar, coffee shop, ballroom, karaoke, shopping arcade, gym, clinic, beauty salon, facilities for handicapped persons

#### Hangzhou Overseas Chinese Hotel

15 Hubin Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310006

Tel: (0571) 774401 or 774953 Telex: 35070 HOCH CN

Fax: (0571) 774978

GM: Xu Bingsheng

308 rooms and suites Rates: US\$40/45

Located in the city centre, 13 km from airport, 4 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, shopping arcade, ballroom, karaoke, clinic, gym, massage, beauty salon, babysitting service, facilities for handicapped persons

#### Hangzhou Tower



1 Wulin Square, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310006

Tel: 553911 Telex: 351008 HZB CN

Fax: 570062

GM: Zhou Shunnan

139 rooms and suites Rates: Double US\$36, suite US\$50/100

Located in the city centre, 12 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, shopping centre, exhibition centre, business centre, billiard room, karaoke, gym, dance hall, clinic, beauty salon, massage

#### Hangzhou Xihu State Hotel

7 Xishan Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310007

Tel: 776889 Telex: 35004 BTHXH CN

Fax: 772348

113 rooms and suites

Located 7 km from the city centre, 20 km from airport, 9 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, bar, coffee shop, disco, shopping arcade, beauty salon, cinema, massage

#### Hangzhou Zhijiang Hotel

84 Moganshan Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310005

Tel: 866888, 882924

Fax: 864966

Opened 28 November 1990

600 rooms and 20 suites Rates: US\$32-84

Located 20 km from airport, 12 km from railway station

Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥ 25; railway station, Rmb ¥ 15

Facilities: Banquet halls, restaurants, conference rooms, business centre, dance hall, billiard room, function rooms, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, bar, gym, clinic, beauty salon

#### Huangang Hotel

4 Xishan Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310007

Tel: 771324 Telex: 35007 HUAJG CN

Fax: 772481

GM: Zhang Xin Rong

Opened 1958

213 rooms and 5 suites Rates: US\$45-60

Located 15 km from airport, 7 km from railway station

Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥ 45; railway station, Rmb ¥ 15

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, bar, karaoke, shopping arcade, clinic, beauty salon, ballroom, gym, massage

#### Huajashan Hotel

12 Faxiang Lane, Xishan Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310007

Tel: 771224 Telex: 35063 HJSGN CN

Fax: 773980



GM: Fu Shui Gen

Opened 18 October 1981

196 rooms and suites

Located southwest of West Lake, 15 km from airport,

7 km from railway station

Facilities: Shopping arcade, beauty salon, massage, conference room, health club, karaoke, multi-function hall

#### Spring Lake Hotel Hangzhou

78 Beishan Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310007

Tel: 777951 Telex: 35005/6 HOTCH CN

Fax: 773545

387 rooms

Located 40 minutes from airport

Facilities: Chinese restaurant, meeting and banquet rooms, business centre, beauty salon, shopping arcade, ballroom, function rooms

#### Wang Hu Hotel

2 Huancheng Road West, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310006

Tel: 771024, 771942 Telex: 351029 WHBG CN

Fax: (0571) 773027

Opened 17 March 1986

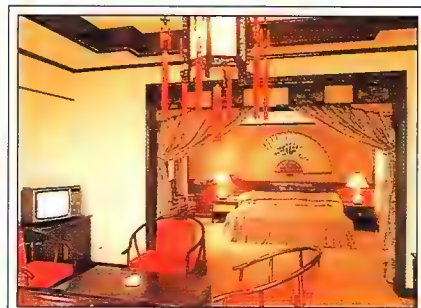
361 rooms and 8 suites Rates: US\$40-260

Located 15 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥ 40; railway station, Rmb ¥ 15

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet halls, conference room, business centre, shopping arcade, gym, karaoke, billiard room, dance hall, nightclub

#### Xin Qiao Hotel, Hangzhou



176 Jiefang Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310001

Tel: 776688 Telex: 351028 XQH CN

Fax: 722768

Opened 28 March 1986

342 rooms and 14 suites Rates: Standard US\$60-90, suite US\$120-220

Located 12 km from airport, 2 km from railway station

Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥ 25-40; railway station, Rmb ¥ 10-20

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, beauty salon, multi-function hall, billiard room, ballroom, coffee shop, bar, massage, babysitting service, facilities for handicapped persons

#### Zhejiang Guesthouse

68 Santaishan Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310007

Tel: 777988 Telex: 35044 ZJGN CN

Fax: 771904

GM: Zhang Xin Rong

175 rooms

Facilities: Shopping arcade, convention hall, indoor swimming pool



## Ningbo, Zhejiang

### Sia Garden Hotel

Mayuan Road, Ningbo, Zhejiang 315010  
Tel: 7366888 Telex: 37020 AGHZJ CN  
Fax: 7361238/7366554  
M: Percy Cheng  
Opened 18 July 1987  
172 rooms and 18 suites Rates: Standard US\$55-100, suite US\$145-450  
Located 15 km from airport, 1 km from railway station  
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥50; railway station, Rmb ¥20  
Facilities: Chinese (especially the Maple House) and Western restaurants, banquet room, conference rooms, business centre, disco, coffee shop, health club, shopping arcade, multi-function hall, karaoke, beauty salon, bar

### Golden Dragon Hotel

Yanzhan (Southern Railway Station) Square, Ningbo, Zhejiang 315010  
Tel: (0574) 318888 (Switchboard)  
Fax: (0574) 312288  
Opened 24 October 1991  
174 rooms and suites Rates: Standard US\$55, suite US\$108-188  
Located 12 km from airport, 100 m from railway station  
Facilities: 14 large and small restaurants, revolving restaurant, meeting rooms, bar, multi-function hall, ballroom, business centre, shopping arcade, beauty salon, coffee shop, karaoke, swimming pool

### Ningbo Hotel



5 Mayuan Road, Ningbo, Zhejiang 315010  
Tel: 0574-7366334 Telex: 37019 NBHOT CN  
Fax: 0574-366301  
M: Yang Guo Liang  
Opened 26 May 1983  
106 rooms and 10 suites Rates: Standard US\$38-65, suite US\$92-205  
Located 12 km from airport, 550 m from railway station  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, conference room, business centre, multi-function hall, bar, beauty salon, ballroom, karaoke, massage, disco, shopping arcade

### Ningbo Hua Qiao Hotel

30 Liuting Street, Ningbo, Zhejiang 315010  
Tel: 0574-7363175 Telex: 37001 NPHCM CN  
Fax: 0574-364790  
M: Chen Furong  
130 rooms Rates: Single US\$26-45, standard US\$32, double US\$26-36, suite US\$70-76  
Located in the city centre near Moon Lake and Tianyige Pavilion  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference

rooms, meeting rooms, business centre, disco, bar, billiard room, shopping arcade, beauty salon

### Yonggang Hotel

105 Baizhang Road East, Ningbo, Zhejiang 315040  
Tel: 7334621 Fax: (0574)-333626  
GM: Gong Quan  
Opened 1982  
184 rooms and suites  
Located 15 km from airport, 5.5 km from railway station  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, meeting rooms, business centre, shopping arcade, disco, karaoke, bar, billiard room, beauty salon, massage, clinic, coffee shop

## Wenzhou, Zhejiang

### Chaoyang Mountain Villa Hotel

Xianglingtou, Yandang Mountain, Wenzhou, Zhejiang 325614  
Tel: (05872) 524206 Fax: (05872) 524206  
GM: Lin Jianshe  
Opened 3 January 1987  
105 rooms Rates: Standard US\$35, VIP US\$200  
Located 50 km from the airport  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, karaoke, disco, bar, shopping arcade, beauty salon, swimming pool, clinic, billiard room, dance hall, facilities for handicapped persons, babysitting service

### Jingsnan Guesthouse

215 Xueshan Road, Wenzhou, Zhejiang 325000  
Tel: 8225901  
73 rooms and suites  
Located 2 km from city centre, 15 km from airport  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, dance hall, disco, bar, coffee shop, shopping arcade, clinic, beauty salon, billiard room

### Ouchang Hotel

71 Xueshan Road, Wenzhou, Zhejiang 325000  
Tel: (0577) 8234931  
117 rooms

### Wenzhou Hote

Chaiqiao Alley, Wenzhou, Zhejiang 325000  
Tel: (0577) 8224987  
237 rooms

### Wenzhou Overseas Chinese Hotel

17 Xinh Street, Wenzhou, Zhejiang 325000  
Tel: (0577) 822391 Fax: (0577) 29656  
187 rooms  
Located 20 km from airport  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, bar, coffee shop, shopping arcade, disco, karaoke, clinic, beauty salon, gym, billiard room, facilities for handicapped persons, babysitting service

### Yandang Hote

Xianglingtou, Yandang Mountain, Wenzhou, Zhejiang 325614  
Tel: (05872) 521393 Fax: 521284  
GM: Zhang Chongfu  
Opened 1986  
96 rooms and suite Rates: Ordinary US\$14, standard US\$20, suite US\$25  
Facilities: Restaurants, conference rooms, meeting rooms, multi-function halls, bars, shopping arcade

## Fuzhou, Fujian

### Donghu (East Lake) Hotel Fujian

73 Dongda Road, Fuzhou, Fujian 350001  
Tel: 7557755 Telex: 92171 DHHFZ CN  
Fax: (0591)-555519  
GM: Chen Xuan  
Opened 15 June 1984  
318 rooms and 11 suites Rates: Standard US\$40-50, suite US\$70-220



Located 12 km from airport, 4 km from railway station  
Facilities: Banqueting and conference amenities, Chinese and Western restaurants, disco, hot springs, coffee shop, bar, karaoke, clinic, beauty salon, gym, swimming pool, massage, shopping arcade

### Foreign Trade Centre Hote

Wusi Road, Fuzhou, Fujian 350001  
Tel: 7550154 Telex: 92158 FTC CN  
Fax: 550358  
GM: Kong Zheng Fang  
195 rooms Rates: US\$65-125  
Located in the commercial district, 14 km from airport, 3 km from railway station  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, meeting room, business centre, coffee shop, bar, disco, hot-spring swimming pool, karaoke, gym, beauty salon, tennis court, sauna, massage, billiard room

### Fuzhou Lakeside Hote

158 Hubin Road, Fuzhou, Fujian 350003  
Tel: 7839888 Telex: 92265 FUHBC CN  
Fax: (0591) 839752  
GM: Lu Xiangqian  
427 rooms and suites Rates: Standard US\$90, suite US\$180-680  
Located beside West Lake, 12 km from airport, 5 km from railway station  
Facilities: Business centre, swimming pool, dance hall

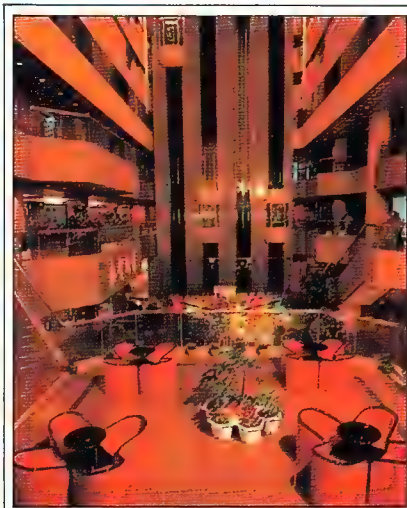
### Fuzhou Qiao Lian Mansion

106 Wuyi Road North, Fuzhou, Fujian 350001  
Tel: 0591-7557858 Fax: 0591-533465  
GM: Zhao Ru Qiu  
Opened 8 October 1982  
99 rooms and 3 suites Rates: US\$21  
Located 11 km from airport, 5 km from railway station  
Facilities: Restaurants, business centre, big and small conference rooms, beauty salon, coffee shop, dance hall, karaoke

### Haishan Hote

19 Wusi Road, Fuzhou, Fujian 350001  
Tel: 7557766 Fax: 534473  
Room rates: US\$20-30  
Located 13 km from airport, 3 km from railway station

### Hot Spring Hote





Wusi Road, Fuzhou, Fujian 350003  
Tel: 7851818 Telex: 92180 HSHFZ CN  
Fax: (0591) 835150  
Opened 1986  
311 rooms and suites Rates: US\$55-150  
Located 15 km from airport, 3 km from railway station  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, conference room, business centre, swimming pool, bowling, sauna, bar, beauty salon, karaoke, disco, massage

#### Hualin Hotel

209 Hualin Road, Fuzhou, Fujian 350003  
Tel: 7840193  
Room rates: Rmb ¥ 100  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, coffee shop, karaoke, dance hall, shopping arcade

#### Indesen Hotel

Liuyi Road, Fuzhou, Fujian 350005  
Tel: 3311838 Fax: 314818  
Room rates: Standard US\$50, suite US\$80  
Located 15 minutes from airport, 8 minutes from railway station  
Facilities: Chinese restaurant, banquet hall, conference rooms, business centre, sauna, beauty salon, nightclub, gym, swimming pool

#### Min-Capital Building Fuzhou

117 Gutian Road, Fuzhou, Fujian 350005  
Tel: 7557720 Telex: 92187 MCB CN  
Fax: (0591) 535060  
GM: Chen Mingguang  
Opened 1 June 1986  
265 rooms and 5 suites Rates: US\$33  
Located 10 km from airport, 5 km from railway station  
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥ 30; railway station, Rmb ¥ 10  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, conference hall, business centre, karaoke, nightclub, bar, coffee shop, shopping arcade, clinic, beauty salon

#### Minjiang Hotel, Fuzhou



Wusi Road, Fuzhou, Fujian 350001  
Tel: 7557895 Telex: 92146 MJHT CN  
Fax: (0591) 551489  
GM: Chen Tian'en  
Opened 29 November 1984  
412 rooms and 12 suites Rates: Standard US\$45, suite US\$84-150  
Located 12 km from airport, 3 km from railway station  
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥ 35; railway station, Rmb ¥ 10  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, business centre, disco, hot spring bathrooms, shopping arcade, dance hall, beauty salon, massage

#### Overseas Chinese Hotel of Fuzhou

116 Wusi Road, Fuzhou, Fujian 350001  
Tel: 7557603 Telex: 92275 OCHFZ CN  
Fax: 0591-550648  
GM: Guo Fa  
Opened September 1961  
248 rooms and 10 suites Rates: Standard US\$40-45, suite US\$65-88

Located 12 km from airport, 2 km from railway station  
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥ 30; railway station Rmb ¥ 10  
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference and banquet halls, hot-spring bathroom, ballroom, coffee shop, bar, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, massage, beauty salon, karaoke

#### Railway Hotel

Wuyi Road Central, Fuzhou, Fujian 350005  
Tel: 7557782 Fax: 552077  
Located 17 km from airport, 10 km from railway station  
Facilities: Conference rooms, business centre, karaoke, coffee shop, beauty salon

#### Taiwan Hotel

28 Hualin Road, Fuzhou, Fujian 350003  
Tel: 7840571 Telex: 92253 TWHF CN  
Fax: (0591) 841409  
GM: Lin Wei  
Opened 9 December 1987  
120 rooms and 5 suites  
Located 11 km from airport, 3 km from railway station  
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥ 50; railway station, Rmb ¥ 10  
Facilities: Restaurants, business centre, coffee shop, bar, shopping arcade, beauty salon, dance hall, sauna

#### Tangcheng Mansion

215 Wuyi Road South, Fuzhou, Fujian 350009  
Tel: 3269999 Fax: 268215  
GM: Lin Guotai  
Opened 1 November 1989  
110 rooms Rates: US\$20-25  
Located 7 km from airport, 6 km from railway station  
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥ 45; railway station, Rmb ¥ 15  
Facilities: Restaurants, conference rooms, shopping arcade, beauty salon, coffee shop, karaoke, dance hall

## New Tours in Jiangsu

Jiangsu Province has set up a number of new tours for 1994 that centre round local cultural relics and historical sites. Apart from the province's seven ancient cities such as Suzhou, Yangzhou, Nanjing and Wuxi, the famous Grand Canal also crosses through the province, making it an especially interesting region for tourists. Nine special routes have been set up for visitors to follow, including a "Marco Polo Tour" and an "Emperor Qianlong on the Grand Canal Tour".

## Tombs Found in Changsha

Fifteen tombs dating back to the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.) have been recently excavated in Changsha, the capital of Hunan Province, after having been accidentally found at two construction sites. Over 100 objects were unearthed and included a rare glazed ball, bronze vessels and weapons, lacquerware and pottery. In addition, a 55-centimetre-long bronze sword was found, which was still sharp after all these centuries.

## Chu City Open in Wuhan

An unusual tourist attraction called Chu City has been partially completed in the city of Wuhan in Hubei Province. Located on the northern banks of East Lake and hidden in the forests of Moshan Mountain, Chu City was modelled after the architecture and art of the State of Chu, which reigned here during the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.). Following the ancient city design of the Chu people, its creator built a wall with four gates, three on the mountain slope and one in the lake. Inside, one can see a five-storey pavilion called Chu Tiantai, a red and black building with two bronze phoenix sculptures standing guard and 345 steps leading to the entrance. The other major building completed thus far is called Chu Market, inside of which are restaurants, teahouses and wineshops made to give one an impression of what life was like in those times. When construction work on Chu City is finished, there will be a total of 23 attractions.

## NEWS

### Crocodile Reserve in Anhui

China's only Yangtse crocodile reserve is becoming a popular tourist spot for those interested in seeing this animal. The Crocodile Lake Reserve is located in the suburbs of Xuanzhou City in Anhui Province, at a place where most of the nation's Yangtse crocodiles naturally congregate. The lake now serves as a centre for studying and breeding the crocodiles, known as "living fossils" because they originated from the same breed as the dinosaurs that lived some 230 million years ago. In 1973 the UN listed the Yangtse crocodile as being on the verge of extinction, therefore China declared it a protected species and in 1979 this centre was established.



## **Exhibit of Relics in Hangzhou**

Zhejiang Province's capital city of Hangzhou is the location of an exhibition of cultural relics from the Liangzhu Culture, which flourished in this region some 4,000 to 5,000 years ago. There are some 30 objects on display including jade ornaments and black pottery, plus over 60 photographs of other valuable relics. Many of the objects on view are under State protection and are being shown to the public for the first time. The exhibition opened on February 2 and will run for a total of five months.

## **57 Folk Art Centres Named**

For those interested in folk art, a visit to one of the 57 places designated by the Ministry of Culture as "centres of folk art" might prove rewarding. Each of these 57 counties, cities and towns has a continuing tradition of painting, paper-cutting, wood carving, clay sculpture or other crafts. The town of Ansai, for example, just north of Yan'an in Shaanxi Province, has recently opened several tourist attractions related to folk art and culture. In Ansai one can enjoy performances featuring the Ansai drum, *suona* horns and Shaanxi folk songs, as well as see exhibits of paper-cuts, farmers' paintings, clay figures and embroidery.

Another well-known folk art centre is the city of Zigong, north of Yibin and quite near Leshan in southern Sichuan Province. A Lantern Museum has recently been completed in the city's Caideng (Colourful Lantern) Park. The museum has exhibits on the history of lantern-making in China and a display of lanterns from both China and abroad. Zigong has been known for its lanterns for over 1,000 years. Other towns that have been designated "centres of folk art" include Ruichang in Jiangxi Province, Fangzheng in Heilongjiang, Gaomi in Shandong, Nanyuan in Beijing municipality and Xinjing in the city of Shanghai.

## **Shennongjia Open to Foreigners**

The mysterious and beautiful Shennongjia Nature Reserve in western Hubei Province is now open to any foreign tourist with a valid visa or residence permit. This region has only recently been accessible to tourists at all, and in 1990 was included in UNESCO's "man and biosphere" network for its large number of rare species of plants and animals. Named after Shennong, the legendary ancient emperor who once collected herbs on the mountains here, the over 70,000-hectare reserve is home to precambrian, protophyte and secondary plant communities.

## **Wuyishan Airport Reopens**

After being closed for expansion projects, Wuyishan Airport at Wuyi Mountain, a scenic site in Fujian Province, reopened in February of this year. At present there are flights between Wuyishan and Xiamen in Fujian, the city of Shanghai and the territory of Hong Kong.

## **Special Tours for '94 in Qinghai**

Tourism officials in Qinghai have set up a wide variety of tours for those interested in exploring this vast and fascinating province. Some of the tours are listed below; for further details contact the Xining branch of CITS (China International Travel Service) in Qinghai.

**The Source of the Yellow River Tour** is a 12-day tour which goes from Xining 600 kilometres southwest to Madoi, the location of two lakes which are the source of the Yellow River. Hiking, horseback riding and river rafting are some of the activities included in this tour.

**Light Rafting Tour Along the Yangtse River** is a 10-day tour that goes to Madoi first and then continues west to Qamarlêb, where a two-day rafting trip will commence along the Tongtian River, the uppermost reaches of the Yangtse.

**Hiking in the Anyêmaqên Mountains Around Anyêma Township** is a 10-day tour that includes a 7-day trip by horseback or on foot to the Anyêmaqên Mountains in the southeastern part of the province.

**The Southern Silk Road Tour** goes all the way from Xining to the Pakistani border in a period of two weeks. The tour first includes a visit to monasteries and a mosque in Xining, goes to Qinghai Lake and Golmud in Qinghai, then to Dunhuang, Turpan, Gaochang, Urümqi, Kashi and Taxkorgan in Xinjiang and ends up at the Kunjirap Pass.

**Auto Adventures on the Roof of the World Tour** is an 18-day tour that starts out in Beijing, goes to Xi'an, Xining, Qinghai Lake, Golmud and then down all the way to Lhasa in Tibet. From Lhasa the tour continues southward, taking in a number of monasteries and ending at Zham, from where one can reach Kathmandu in Nepal.

**Folk Customs Tour with Hiking, Adventure and Horseback Riding** will take you to the Anyêmaqên Mountains in the southeast, and another **Folk Customs Tour** takes you to explore areas where the Tu nationality and the Tibetan people live.

Lastly, there is a **Hunting Tour** to Barun International Hunting Ground in Dulan County southwest of Qinghai Lake. Here one can hunt a variety of game and wildlife during the hunting seasons of March to early May and mid-August to the end of December.

## **Zhejiang's Karst Caves to Be Developed**

Tourism officials in Zhejiang Province have decided to further develop its karst caves in order to attract more visitors. The province has a total of over 1,200 karst caves, of which about 500 are exploitable. One of the most successful caves already opened to tourists is called Yaolin Wonderland, located in Tonglu County along the Fuchun River and just south of Hangzhou. Since its opening in 1980, Yaolin Wonderland has received more than 12 million visitors.

## **New Road Up Mt. Huashan**

Visitors to Huashan Mountain, east of Xi'an in Shaanxi Province, will now be able to travel to the top via a newly completed 7.66-kilometre-long road. In the past this mountain was known as one of the most difficult to climb in the country, with the only access through a ravine dug during the Tang Dynasty. The new road should be a great convenience for tourists wishing to see the sights of this famous mountain.

## **Shooting Club in Guangzhou**

Target shooting enthusiasts visiting Guangzhou will be pleased to know that a new shooting range has been open there since May 1 of this year. Called the Hongwei International Shooting Club, it is located four kilometres southeast of the city and occupies an area of 95,000 square metres. With high-quality facilities and 100 targets, the club will be playing host to several international shooting competitions. Some parts of the club, such as a hotel, a swimming pool and tennis courts, are still under construction.

## **Chengdu's Spring Park**

One of Chengdu's most popular places to visit is Spring Park, located in the suburbs of this city, the capital of Sichuan Province. Hot springs — some of which maintain a constant temperature of 41°C — dot the park and contain many minerals said to be beneficial to one's health. Facilities for visitors include recently constructed hot spring bathrooms, shower rooms and swimming pools, as well as a water entertainment centre. Another feature of this park is its many karst caves, the most well-known of which is called Fairy Cave, excavated in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). One can also take a boat down Flower River, which flows through the park, and see both waterfalls and steep crevasses similar to those along the Three Gorges.



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# Xinjiang Special

In our next issue we will be focusing on the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, known in ancient times as part of the remote and largely unexplored Western Regions. In terms of its scenery, terrain, people, language and life style, Xinjiang is a completely unique area of China, with much to offer today's visitor. Making the capital city of Urumqi our base, we will be exploring the upper half of Xinjiang and taking you to a wide variety of towns and scenic locations.

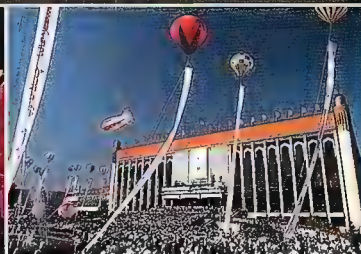
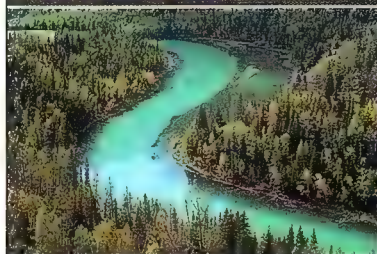
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	Very good	Good	Fair	Not Impressed
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(B) Which pictures did you like or dislike most?  
(Please quote issue, pages or picture captions)

Reasons \_\_\_\_\_

(C) Which articles did you find the most or least interesting?  
(Please quote issue, pages or article titles)

Reasons \_\_\_\_\_

(D) Have you any suggestions which will help us to improve our magazine?

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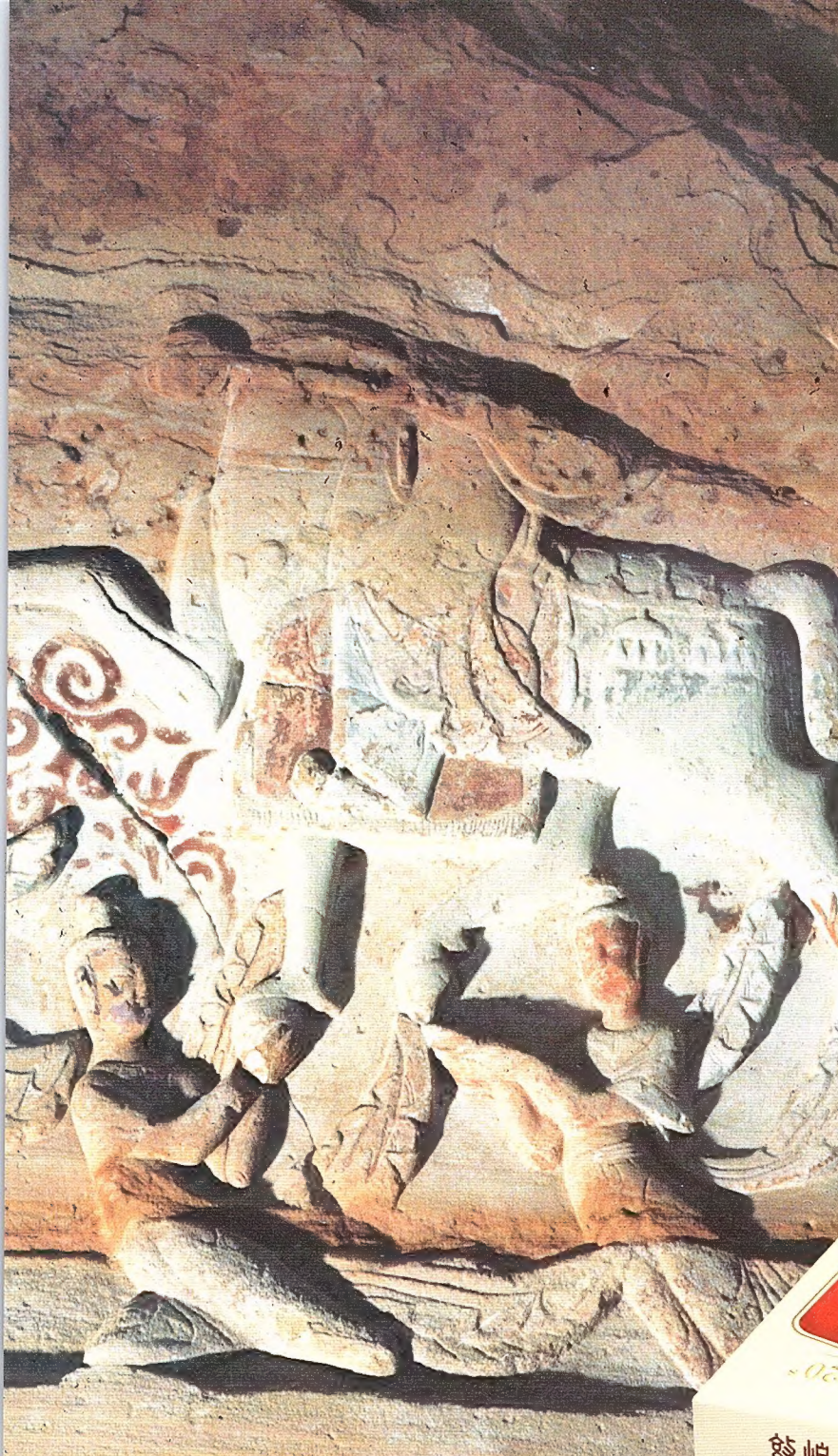
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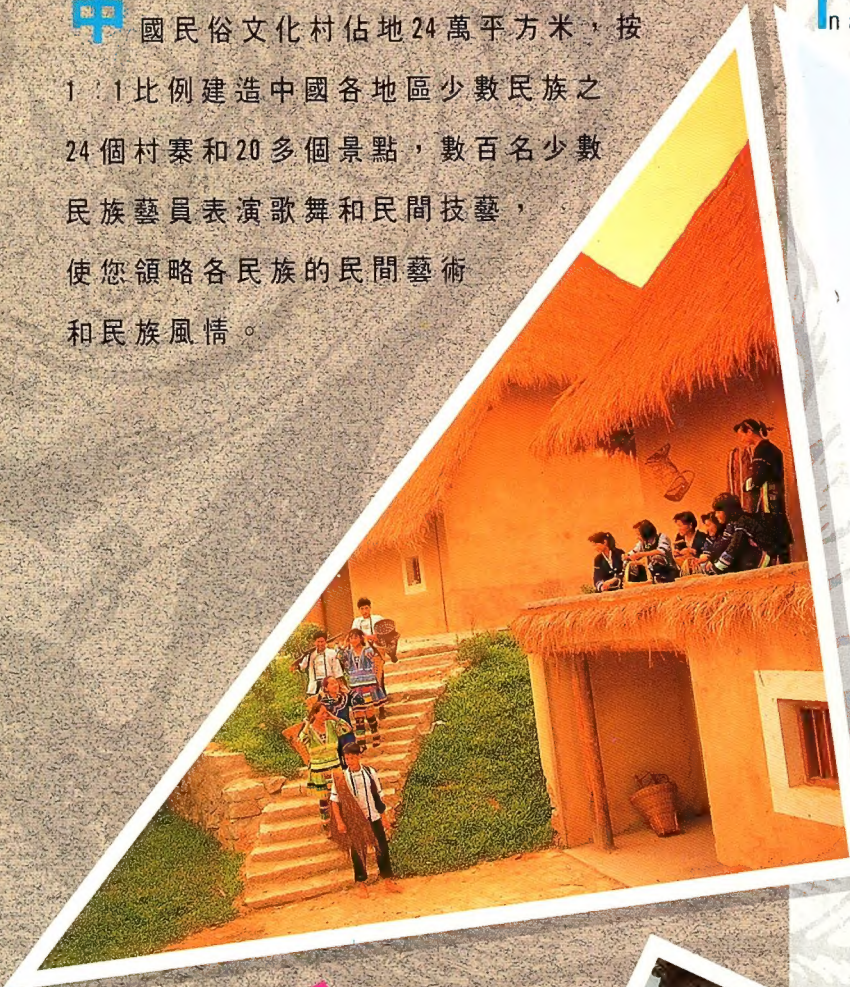
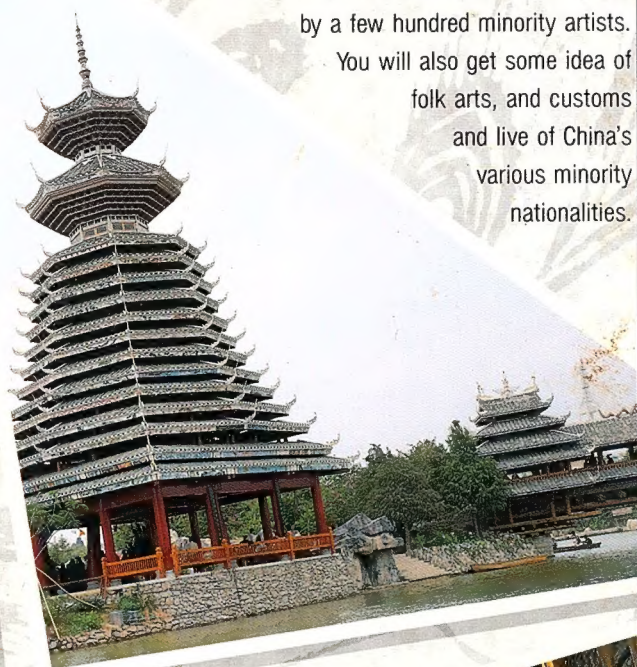


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